Witness: GMA knew of PCSO fund misuse

STORY BELOW, COL. 5

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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2001 ★ 58 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 314 ₱15

UK experts red-faced over mad cow madcap

LONDON—British scientists trying to find out if mad cow disease has infected the country's sheep made a major blunder by spending five years testing the brains of

UK/ A16

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL
- Robert Redford waves the flag
- Heaven can wait for Chris Rock
- Basil Valdez delivers
- 'Training Day' rules box office

REDFORD

Ground troops move in

US-led attacks enter new phase after 2 weeks of aerial bombings

WASHINGTON/KABUL—After nearly two weeks of devastating bomb-and-missile attacks, American special forces are now on the ground in Afghanistan to help flush out Osama bin Laden.

A US defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged Friday that the US-led war on terrorism had entered a new phase, and said the small force of ground troops could increase significantly in coming days.

"It is at the very, very, very earliest stage," the official said, but added that the US ground deployment would never reach the size of the ground forces in the Gulf War.

The Washington Post reported that the troops were in southern Afghanistan to expand efforts by the US Central Intelligence Agency to encourage ethnic Pashtun leaders to break away from Bin Laden's protectors, the ruling Taliban.

Vice President Dick Cheney gave further clues as to how the war would develop.

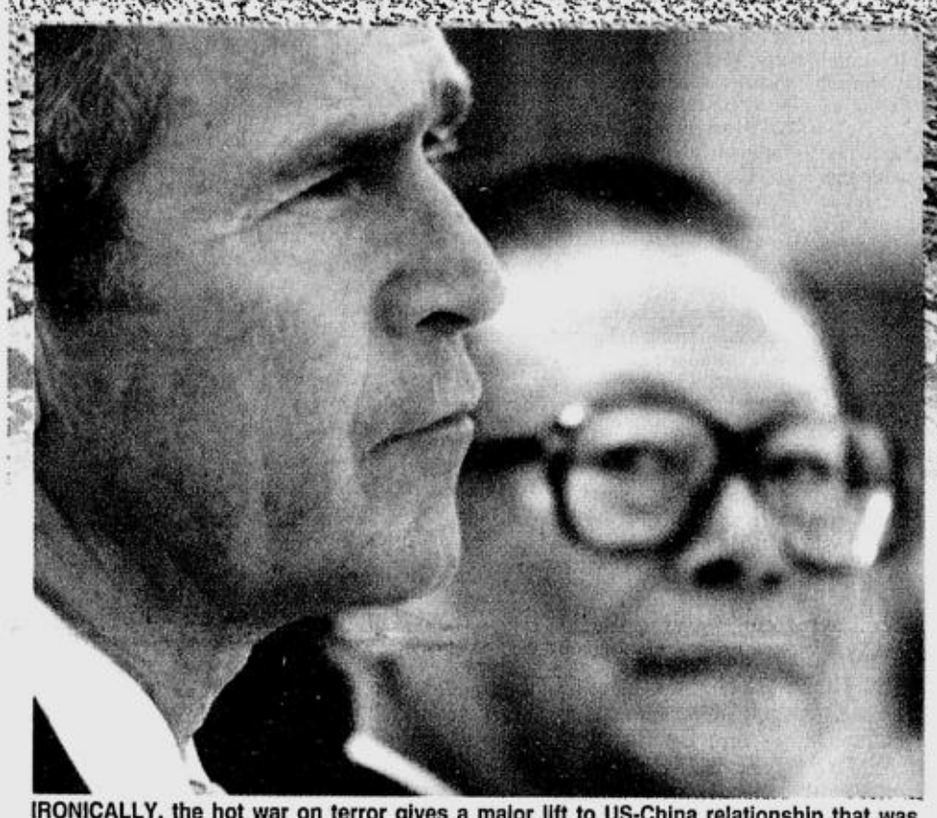
"The success of our air campaign has cleared the way for further action which the Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists can neither predict nor escape," Cheney said in New York.

"It is important to realize that the military aspect will not always be so visible . . . Other successes will come from covert operations that are not seen or heard of beyond a very small circle," he said.

US aircraft broadcast messages in local dialects warning Afghans not to interfere with the military operations. And defectors who crossed over to the Northern Alliance said Thursday that the Taliban was demoralized and its fighters were fleeing or defecting.

In neighboring Pakistan, the Taliban embassy's spokesperson Sohail Shaheen said Afghanistan's Islamic leaders had no information that US ground troops had arrived—

GROUND/ A16


IRONICALLY, the hot war on terror gives a major lift to US-China relationship that was festering on the edge of a new Cold War just six months ago. China's President Jiang Zemin hosts US President George W. Bush at the 21-country Apec summit in Shanghai. AP

Bush, Jiang: Partners in war vs terror

SHANGHAI—US President George W. Bush and Chinese President Jiang Zemin declared themselves partners in the war on terrorism Friday, although Jiang called for caution to save innocent lives.

Jiang told a joint news conference that in their first face-to-face meeting, he and Bush had reached a "consensus" on the issue of terrorism. But he aired China's reservations about the scope of the US-led military strikes against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban for harboring prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden.

"We hope anti-terrorism efforts can have clearly defined targets and also should hit accurately and also avoid innocent casualties," he said.

Bush set out US concerns, too, by saying that the war on terrorism "must never be an excuse to persecute minorities." He was apparently referring to China's harsh crackdown on Muslim separatists in the western region of Xinjiang.

Still, the two men hailed the success of their meeting at a government guest house ahead of a weekend leaders' summit of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec).

The war against terrorism has given a major lift to the US-China relationship that had appeared to be teetering on the brink of a new Cold War just six months ago, after a collision between a US spy plane and a Chinese jet fighter.

Bush, who came to office calling China a "strategic competitor," underlined the trans-

BUSH/ A15

FBI offers $1-M reward for anthrax info

WASHINGTON—The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on Thursday placed a $1-million reward for information leading to the arrest of terrorists behind a global germ warfare scare as tests confirmed two more people had been infected with anthrax in the United States.

In a calculated effort to quell mounting anxiety over the anthrax attacks by mail, Homeland Defense Chief Tom Ridge enlisted top legal and medical officials for a public briefing.

Their clear message for the home front of the new war on terror—a plea for calm in what Ridge, a Vietnam War veteran and former Pennsylvania governor, called "extremely challenging times."

A wave of alerts continued across the world in a scare that the British Medical Journal said in an editorial might fuel long-term mental health problems and trigger mass hysteria.

In Kenya, a family became the first confirmed international victims of the anthrax mail attack.

Four members of the family were exposed to anthrax through a letter posted in Atlanta on Sept. 8—three days before the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—and received in Kenya about a month later, Health Minister Sam Ongeri said.

In Buenos Aires, preliminary tests showed a letter from the United States almost certainly contained anthrax bacteria.

"The germ developed on the culture is 98 percent likely to be anthrax spores,"

FBI/ A16

Gloria to tell of RP war vs terrorism

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said she would tell other leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) that the Philippines was winning its own war against terrorism.

During brief departure ceremonies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal I, the President said this was one of her administration's "achievements" that she would report during the two-day 9th Apec summit in Shanghai, China.

The summit is expected to focus on the global effect of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the US military campaign in Afghanistan.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II told Filipino reporters in Shanghai that Ms Macapagal could even serve as a "voice" for the cause of the anti-terrorism campaign and rally Apec-member countries to support the US-led coalition.

At least two leaders of Apec member-countries—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri—have criticized

GLORIA/ A15

Priest's kidnap leader named

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL
in Manila
HERNAN P. DE LA CRUZ, AND JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE MILITARY has identified Faizal Marohombsar, who reportedly heads the Pentagon kidnap gang, as the primary suspect in the abduction on Wednesday of Italian priest Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur.

A description by witnesses of one of Pierantoni's kidnappers matched that of Marohombsar's, according to Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Marohombsar was a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) who had links with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Marohombsar's group uses a town in Lanao del Norte as a base and operates in that province, in Lanao del Sur and the Cotabato area, according to Adan.

A student of the Southern Mindanao Colleges in Pagadian

PRIEST'S/ A16

US Embassy bombers draw life terms

NEW YORK—Four members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network were sentenced to life in prison without parole on Thursday for the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in East Africa.

The four men—a Jordanian, a Saudi, a Tanzanian and an American born in Lebanon—were convicted on May 29 by a federal jury in the first US convictions linked to Saudi-born militant Bin Laden, who is the government's prime suspect in the Sept. 11 hijacked plane attacks on America.

"This is a time not for eloquence, but for justice," US District Court Judge Leonard Sand said during the sentencing hearing in the courtroom only 10 blocks from the scene of last month's destruction of the World Trade Center.

The building was surrounded by heavily armed guards as part of unprecedented security measures at the Manhattan federal courthouse. The sentences were handed down with New York and the rest of the United States on edge after the attacks and a series of exposures to anthrax in the mail, raising fears of possible bioterrorism. *(See story on this page.)*

Before passing sentence on Tanzanian Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 28, Judge Sand said: "Three members of the jury stated that life imprisonment is harsher

US/ A16

CENTRAL to the gathering storm, PCSO Chair Livia Singson de Leon is mobbed by the media after the Senate hearing on the alleged misuse of her agency's funds by the President's husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo. JESS YUSON

Witness: GMA knew of PCSO fund misuse

BY CYNTHIA BALANA AND CARLITO PABLO

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had full knowledge of the alleged special operations to use funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to finance the campaign of four administration senatorial candidates last May.

This was the claim yesterday of former Senate reporter and PCSO media consultant Robert Rivero, whose testimony was taken by the Senate committee on constitutional amendments despite the boycott of eight administration senators.

Malacañang quickly responded to the allegations with the President's spokesperson saying that the committee, if it is serious about unearthing anomalies in the PCSO, should focus on the irregularities committed during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The eight majority senators had boycotted the hearings after questioning the jurisdiction of the committee chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara to investigate the alleged involvement of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in the alleged misuse of PCSO funds.

They claimed that the referral to Angara's committee had been held in abeyance by the Senate. Thus, they said, there was no plenary authority to proceed with the legislative inquiry.

According to Rivero, the use of PCSO funds was masterminded by

WITNESS/ A15

Second FRONT PAGE

A QUESTION OF LIFE AND DEATH

Church slams GMA about-face

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo faced further flak yesterday for reversing herself on the death penalty, with Catholic bishops denouncing her decision to carry out the execution of convicted kidnappers and lawyers warning it could lead to her impeachment.

"With this reversal, the President openly surrendered to the reign of crime in the country," Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a former head of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said.

Her about-face on the death penalty is tantamount to admitting that "the police system is futile in preventing crime," that the judicial system does not work, and "killing criminals is therefore the only solution," Cruz said.

Ms Macapagal, who came into office in January opposed to the death penalty, reversed her stand this week saying the 79 kidnappings so far this year were ruining the economy.

She vowed to have 95 people convicted of kidnapping executed once the Supreme Court affirmed their sentences, and she called for the commuted death sentences of another six kidnappers to be annulled so they could be executed as soon as possible.

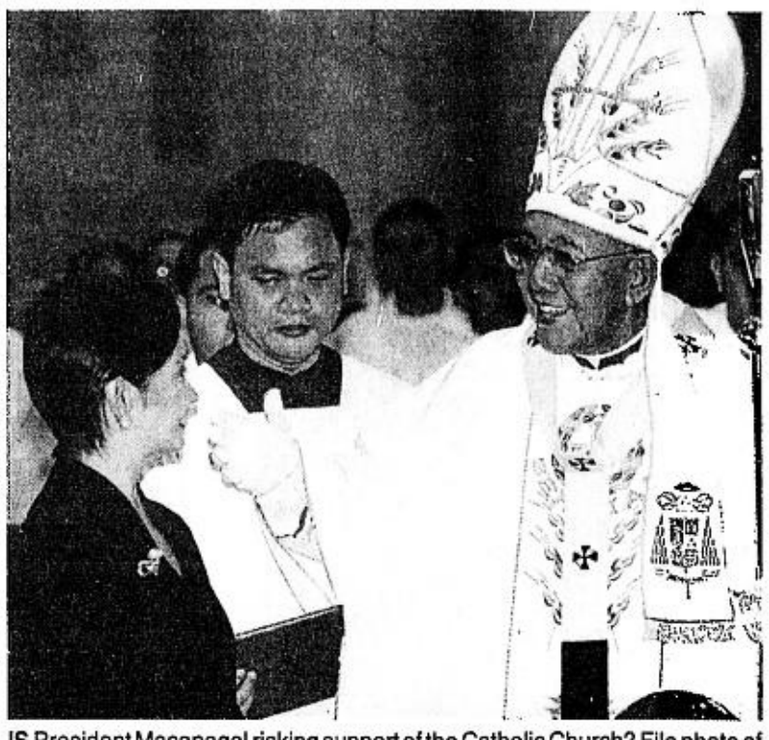
The six, along with two other Death Row convicts whose sentences were affirmed by the Supreme Court in August, would be first in line for the reopened death chamber, she said.

The Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag), a volunteer lawyers' organization whose members serve as lawyers for some of the Death Row convicts, warned that recalling commutation orders would be unprecedented and unconstitutional.

"The commutations extinguished the original death sentences and replaced them with *reclusion perpetua* (life imprisonment)," Flag secretary general Socorro Diokno told a news conference.

"Government cannot legally put to death convicts who are no longer sentenced to death," she said.

The Flag said it would take legal action to challenge the President if she insists on executing convicted kidnappers Roberto Gungon, Benedicto Ramos, Zoilo Borromeo, Rommel Dayang, Melvin Espiritu and Nicson Catli, who were all granted executive clemency by her predecessor.



IS President Macapagal risking support of the Catholic Church? File photo of the President with Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Flag lawyer Theodore Te warned that if the President "continues with this course of action, then definitely, it will be a culpable violation of the Constitution."

He said this could "theoretically" be grounds for her impeachment.

Congress impeached Ms Macapagal's predecessor, Joseph Estrada, last year for alleged corruption, and he was toppled from power in a popular revolt supported by the Church in January.

He is now detained and on trial for plunder.

Fr. Silvino Borres Jr., coordinator of the Coalition Against the Death Penalty, said Ms Macapagal had lost her moral ascendancy and was proving to be a "consummate politician" who may have merely used the Catholic Church for political expediency during Edsa 2.

The international human rights group Amnesty International warned the Macapagal-Arroyo administration that executions of criminals "will not resolve the rise in crimes such as kidnapping."

Amnesty said there was indeed an urgent need to combat the serious law and order problem but that government should find more effective measures for doing so.

"The death penalty has never been shown to deter crimes more effectively than other punishments," a press statement from Amnesty International Pilipinas said yesterday.

It warned that imposing capital punishment carries the risk of extinguishing the lives of innocent people.

"The risk is heightened in the Philippines because of the lack of protection for detainees during interrogation. Many of those on Death Row were held incommunicado, tortured to coerce confessions and then subjected to unfair trials," Amnesty said.

The Estrada administration executed seven convicts in 1999—none of them kidnappers—but declared an indefinite moratorium on executions last year in the face of Church pressure.

Flag lawyers said that excluding the six commuted cases, the government could not put convicted kidnappers to death before August 2002 at the earliest.

The 1994 Death Penalty Law for "heinous crimes" provides that a Death Row convict must be executed between 12 and 18 months after the sentence is upheld by the Supreme Court.

The CBCP, grouping nearly 100 Filipino bishops, urged Ms Macapagal "not to resort to a quick-fix solution on the problem of criminality," saying it was an "illusion" to expect law and order would be restored "only if one or two Filipinos are executed daily."

"Stop giving us false hope that we will be safe and secure after putting people to death," it said.

Flag said there were 1,020 convicts on Death Row, including 993 at the National Penitentiary and 27 women at the Correctional Institute for Women.

Legislators say some 800 other convicts who have been sentenced to death were awaiting transfer to Death Row from provincial jails.

The Death Row population includes seven minors, 13 Chinese, a Japanese man and an American. Most of the foreigners were convicted for drug-related offenses, Flag said. ***AFP with reports from Blanche Rivera, Metro Manila, and Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Palace on case of 6 kidnappers: It's just a review

BY CARLITO PABLO

AMID spiraling criticism of President Macapagal-Arroyo's reversal on the death penalty, her spokesperson yesterday sought to explain her announced intention to annul the commutation of the death sentences of six convicted kidnappers as a mere decision to "review."

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said the President was "not taking any concrete steps to reverse" the commutations and has not said she would like it done right away.

"If her legal advisers think it cannot be done, she will respect the Constitution," Tiglao said.

The death sentence of the six convicted kidnappers—Roberto Gungon, Benedicto Ramos, Zoilo Borromeo, Rommel Dayang, Melvin Espiritu and Nicson Catli—were commuted to life terms by ousted President Joseph Estrada apparently to appease the Catholic Church.

In her press conference on Thursday, the President ordered the justice department to pull the records of the six "to see how we could recall their commutations."

Some justice department officials immediately pointed out to the President that this move could lead to legal complications.

Tiglao said the case of the six convicts had been brought up by representatives of the Chinese-Filipino community, the perennial target of kidnap-for-ransom gangs, during a dialogue with the President in Malacañang last Monday.

"What happened was that the Chinese-Filipino representatives used these six convicts as an example. They said the evidence against them was overwhelming. The President said we'll review it," Tiglao explained.

He said one or two of the convicted kidnappers had been shown during the trial as having been "cruel" to their victims.

Tiglao would not comment on suggestions that singling out the case of the six was tantamount to declaring that the jailed ex-president had been wrong in his decision to commute their sentences.

"The point is we have to send a signal that we are serious, that we want something done against kidnapping syndicates," Tiglao said.

Tiglao also stressed that Ms Macapagal's change of policy with respect to the death penalty was not because she was fearful of a backlash from the Chinese-Filipino community.

"The President does not undertake decisions on the basis of fear but on the requirements of solving the country's problems," he said.

US 'advisers' arrive in Manila

BY N. BORDADORA

TWO colonels led American servicemen who arrived at 9:30 last night on board a US C-130 aircraft at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for a seven-day mission in the country.

Earlier, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva confirmed that 22 American military advisers were arriving to help train local soldiers in tracking the homegrown Abu Sayyaf terror group.

The Abu Sayyaf has been linked to suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, which is believed to be behind the Sept. 11 suicide airplane attacks in the United States.

The arriving American officers were identified as Col. David Fridovich and Col. John Christian. Newsmen learned of their coming after the US Embassy in Manila requested assistance from Philippine Air Force and NAIA authorities.

Villanueva said the military advisers were arriving to teach Filipino soldiers new techniques in dealing with terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf.

Robert Fitts, US Embassy charge d'affaires, confirmed Villanueva's statement. He said the American advisers would come from the US Pacific Command.

"The team is coming as part of an ongoing program of cooperation (between the two countries against terrorism)," Fitts said in a statement. He added the team was coming on invitation of the Philippine government.

Fridovich and Christian's party is slated to depart on Oct. 25.

The Philippines continued its participation in the US-led coalition against terrorism after five South Korean C-130 cargo planes landed at the NAIA yesterday for a technical stop before proceeding to Pakistan.

The cargo planes were laden with tons of relief goods for the thousands of Afghan refugees who have crossed the border into Pakistan following the US air raids on their country.

The Korean aircraft arrived within twenty minutes of each other, with the first plane landing at 9:35 a.m.

The aircraft were refueled and underwent maintenance checks at the NAIA Balabag hangar.

Last week, Japanese aircraft on a similar humanitarian mission landed at the NAIA before heading to Pakistan.

On Wednesday, six C-130s and five F-18 fighter jets of the US Air Force landed at Clark Field in Pampanga for refueling. The aircraft came from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, and left the next day for a secret destination.

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Supreme Court of the Philippines invites contractors to apply for prequalification/eligibility and bidding for the **CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REFURBISHING AND UPGRADING OF SELECTED AREAS** (Memorabilia Room [Division Session Hall], Main Lobby, Session Hall, En Banc Dining and En Banc Conference Rooms, and Division Conference Rooms) **WITHIN THE SUPREME COURT NEW BUILDING, located at Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

The Scope of Work shall cover the complete Architectural, Civil and Engineering works, the supply and installation of new Interior Fit-out and Furnishing of all Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment, and refurbishing of existing furniture items and finishes based on the Interior Design Contract Documents and Specifications of the Project and other requirements to complete the work.

The approved budget for the Project subject of the bid is Fifty Seven Million and Nine Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Pesos (Php 57,998,000.00).

The application for prequalification/eligibility is open ONLY to bona fide qualified contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), Large "B" ("AAA" [Building]) licensee, who have completed in the last five (5) years projects similar in nature and complexity to the contract subject of the bid, the value of which must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget. Similar projects refer to projects for construction, renovation, refurbishing and upgrading of Court Hearing Rooms, Executive Conference Rooms or Board Rooms, Executive Dining Rooms, Main Lobby etc. In case of a Joint Venture, each of the members must satisfy the registration and classification requirements and shall be jointly and severally liable for any and all obligations which the Joint Venture may incur.

Prequalification/Eligibility Documents may be secured from the Office of the BAC Chairman, Third Floor, Supreme Court Old Building, Taft Avenue, Manila from October 8 to 22, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The accomplished forms may be submitted on or before October 30, 2001, at the same office. Prequalification/Eligibility Statements or any document in support thereof will no longer be accepted after 4:00 PM on October 30, 2001.

All applicants will be duly notified of the results of the prequalification/eligibility.

The Bid Form, Plans, Specifications, and other Bid Documents shall be issued to prequalified contractors upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 12,000.00. The BAC will also issue a timetable for the other phases of the bidding process.

All particulars relative to the Prequalification/Eligibility and bidding process shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Supreme Court.

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Court orders Lumbao arrest

A MANILA judge yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Ronald Lumbao, a supporter of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada and the leader of a group of urban-poor Estrada supporters, in connection with rebellion charges.

Lumbao, president of the People's Movement Against Poverty, was charged by the justice department last week for allegedly leading thousands of Estrada's supporters in the bloody siege of Malacañang in May.

Manila RTC Branch 27 Judge Teresa Soriaso said the court found sufficient cause to order Lumbao's arrest.

At least two people were killed and scores injured in the dispersal by police and military of the protesters at Malacañang.

Lumbao and other opposition leaders—former Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ernesto Maceda and Juan Ponce Enrile—were charged with inciting to rebellion following the May 1 incident.

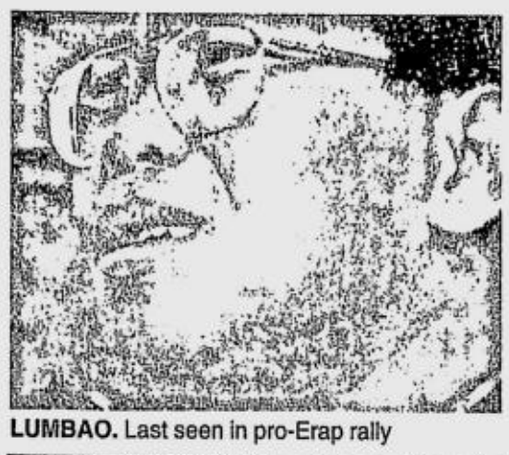
But Lumbao failed to make an appearance in any of the preliminary investigations conducted by the justice department.

The case was raffled to Branch 27 on Tuesday.

Lumbao was last seen speaking at a pro-Estrada rally at the Sandiganbayan early this month.

His address was given at Hadel-Tuto Street, Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental.

The RTC sheriff's office is expected to provide the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation with copies of the judge's arrest order. *Jerome Aning*



LUMBAO. Last seen in pro-Erap rally

DOH: No mystery virus

THE MYSTERIOUS virus that afflicted hundreds of students in several private schools around Metro Manila early this month is not so mysterious after all.

The health department said it was influenza AH1N1, not a new strain of flu, that downed a record number of students and teachers in early October, causing near panic among local authorities.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the 33 swabs taken from afflicted students and sent by the health department to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) did not show any signs or indications of a new type of flu.

He said some samples had also been sent to Korea and Japan for experts there to determine if it was indeed a new strain of virus.

"All we were looking for was a new strain, but there was none," Dayrit said in a press briefing on Thursday.

"We're saying it's probably influenza AH1N1," he said.

The health department had earlier speculated that the flu virus that swept Metro Manila two weeks ago could be a new and more severe strain because of the number of people it had affected.

Health experts said that despite the development of a new flu vaccine every two years, the virus could also evolve and undergo changes in its genetic characteristics in as short a time as one week.

The DOH has set up a uniform "syndromic" surveillance system to check cases in both private and public schools and review the data from the school clinics. The case definition for influenza is fever with colds or cough. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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Kidnapper of priests killed by military guards

BY HERNAN P. DE LA CRUZ AND JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GUIPOS, Zamboanga del Sur—The leader of a kidnap gang believed to be behind the series of clergy abductions in Mindanao was killed yesterday along with at least one of his aides.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said Abdulsalam Akiddin, alias Commander Kiddie, alleged leader of the Pentagon gang, along with accomplices Pablo Yusop and Hassan Amada, had been arrested at a military checkpoint in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay, on Wednesday.

One report said Yusop was killed with Akiddin, while another report said it was Amada who was slain when the three attempted to overpower their guards and escape.

The three were reportedly in a *banca* taking soldiers to the place the gang was holding its latest victim, Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni who had been kidnapped Wednesday in Zamboanga del Sur.

On the way to Naga town, Zamboanga Sibugay, the three tried to escape by grabbing the firearms of their guards, Cimatu said.

"He (Akiddin) grabbed the M16 rifle of a soldier. He was about to shoot, but the soldiers were able to fire first," Cimatu said.

Akiddin and Yusop were killed instantly while Amada was able to escape by jumping in the water. Another report said it was Amada who was shot causing him to fall into the water. His body has not been recovered.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, commander of the newly formed Task Force Giuseppe, said that after his arrest, Akiddin agreed to lead the military to the hideouts of his accomplices in the Pentagon gang.

Atutubo said it was clear Akiddin was only trying to buy time by pretending to cooperate with the authorities.

"Eventually he tried to escape," Atutubo said.

Two soldiers were wounded in the incident but they were not identified.

Akiddin's gang was suspected in at least 16 abductions, including that of Fr. Luciano Benedetti in 1998 and Fr. Bernard Maes in 1997.

RP-MILF peace talks in KL hit a snag

KUALA LUMPUR—Peace negotiations between the Philippines government and Muslim rebels have hit a snag just one day after both sides signed a pact entrenching a ceasefire, a rebel spokesman said Friday.

"The main panel faces a crisis where there are some disagreements on an issue, and this remains a major stumbling block to discussions," said Murad Ebrahim, military affairs vice chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Murad, who heads the 18-member MILF delegation, told AFP the two parties disagreed on determining and managing development projects in conflict-affected areas in the southern Philippines.

"We have to consult our principals... to discuss it with them and we will meet again tomorrow and hopefully resolve this," he said.

"I am still optimistic about the negotiations. Disagreements are bound to crop up, but things still look promising for talks."

He said the technical committees on both sides were working on the issue of ancestral lands in conflict areas, but declined to elaborate.

The talks are aimed at ending the MILF's 23-year fight to set up an independent Islamic state in the south of the largely Roman Catholic Philippines.

The MILF and the government Thursday signed an agreement containing detailed instructions on how to conduct and implement a ceasefire agreed in August.

Jesus Dureza, who heads a 17-member delegation from Manila, hailed the signing as a "step forward" in the peace talks. He was scheduled to return to Manila Saturday. *AFP*

₱30-pay hike OK'd for Metro workers

AFTER two months of contentious deliberations, the wage board yesterday approved a P30 cost-of-living allowance for Metro Manila workers to be released in two tranches starting next month.

The approved increase hewed close to what employers desired and was far less than the P77 across-the-board increase sought by the Labor Solidarity Movement and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines in a petition filed last July.

The wage order, which will cover only those workers earning less than P290 a day, was signed last night by the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board of the National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR).

Workers will receive the first P15 on Nov. 5 and the next P15 on Feb. 2.

Exempted from granting the additional COLA are companies categorized as "micro" enterprises, or those with less than 10 employees, as well as "distressed establishments," or those suffering at least 20 percent in capital impairment. Potentially distressed firms may also be exempted.

But such companies would have to apply for an exemption and present proof that they are indeed incapable of giving the allowance, said Essa Sampaga, secretary of the RTWPB-NCR.

Anticipating protests from militant labor groups, Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said: "They should understand that this was a tripartite decision and there had been a lot of debates. We hope that they will respect this decision."

He said the signing of the wage order was as good as an assurance that there would be no massive lay-offs this year. There have been fears that companies would resort to retrenchment to survive the economic downturn.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee said earlier employers would "most likely" resort to retrenchment if the RTWPB-NCR were to approve a P30 across-the-board allowance.

He said companies, especially the small enterprises, could not afford to give additional allowances at this time when both small and big businesses are suffering from the repercussions of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States.

"Many firms have closed down already. The small businesses especially cannot sustain additional costs," Dee said in a phone interview before the announcement of the wage order.

He said the 4.5 million-strong Metro Manila labor force was already among the best-compensated in the country, which has a total of 29 million workers.

RP revises ban on Sino fruits

BY TJ BURGONIO

FEARING retaliatory action from China, the agriculture department has revised its temporary import ban on Chinese fruits, saying that this only covers those coming from two provinces and not from the whole of China.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has issued a clarificatory order saying that the department was banning only fruits coming from China's Shandong and Dalian provinces.

Montemayor on Friday ordered an import ban on all Chinese fruits following the confiscation on Oct. 1 of 25 container vans of apples from China that were found to contain codling moth, a destructive fruit pest.

The agriculture secretary said that the shipment of pest-infected apples seized early this month at the South Harbor came from four areas in Shandong, namely Yantai, Longkou, Weihai and Qingdao, as well as Dalian.

Montemayor's softened stance came after Chinese consular officials protested the general ban on Chinese fruits in a meeting with agriculture officials at the Chinese consulate on Tuesday.

Sources at the agriculture department said a Chinese official threatened to stop Chinese importation of Philippine bananas if the Philippines went ahead with the import ban on Chinese fruits.

During that meeting, Chinese economic and commercial counselor Yu Shizhong asked agriculture officials, led by Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez, that the import restriction be limited to the two provinces where the shipment of apples came from.

According to DA insiders, Montemayor's move was aimed at appeasing Beijing in view of President Macapagal-Arroyo's impending state visit to China.

The President, who left for Shanghai yesterday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference leaders' summit, is scheduled to make a state visit to Beijing later this month.

In line with his revised order, Montemayor directed the Bureau of Plant Industry to suspend all permits involving the importation of apples and other fruits from the two Chinese provinces.

BPI quarantine officials have been instructed to conduct a thorough inspection of all shipments from China at the country's seaports and airports, and to immediately treat or destroy the affected commodities to prevent the pest from spreading to local fruits.

However, some of the Chinese apples that had been seized had been released to the market after being treated through a 6-hour fumigation or 15-day cold treatment.

"They're now out in the market," said Ester Tuazon, chief of the BPI quarantine services, stressing that the treatment would not have any side effects.

Apart from apples, also covered by the ban are pear, apricot, peach, plum, cherry, almond, quince, walnut, ornamental apple, pears and corn, which codling moth often attacks. ***With a report from Christine Gaylican***

Ombudsman decries delay in Estrada trial

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND VOLT CONTRERAS

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto said yesterday the lawyers of deposed President Joseph Estrada have scored a victory with the delay granted by the Sandiganbayan in their client's trial for plunder.

The Sandiganbayan canceled the remainder of the October trial dates because it was still studying a defense motion questioning the opening of the plunder trial on Oct. 1, when all of the ex-president's lawyers were absent.

Desierto said the decision of the Sandiganbayan Third Division to cancel the hearings on Oct. 22, 24 and 25 "makes for a highly anomalous situation that should warrant corrective measures."

Desierto and government prosecutors filed a five-page urgent motion for reconsideration immediately after Third Division chair Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. issued the cancellation order.

Earlier, the court had postponed the hearings scheduled on Oct. 17 and 18.

Desierto said the court "motu propio issued the order based solely on the grounds that the motion for vacatur filed by the defense had yet to be resolved by the court."

Desierto said the grounds cited by the court were "misplaced."

"The people respectfully submits that the accused Estradas were needlessly allowed to disrupt the trial schedule which was set as early as Sept. 13. The motion for vacatur cannot serve as a valid basis to overhaul the trial schedule," the motion for reconsideration read.

PNP poohpoohs 'Black October'

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND CARLITO PABLO

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday downplayed the heightened security around Malacañang amid rumors of an opposition plan for destabilization called the "Black October Affair."

PNP deputy director general Hermogenes Ebdane said security around the Palace was normally augmented whenever the President goes on a foreign trip.

President Macapagal-Arroyo left for Shanghai early yesterday to attend the 9th Leaders Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Macapagal administration was no longer vulnerable to destabilization attempts as it has already secured enormous public support.

"It (destabilization) is no longer possible," Tiglao said. "Public support for this government has grown immensely."

"Any destabilization campaign will succeed only if political support for any particular government is weak," Tiglao said.

He said military and police forces go on heightened alert, as a matter of standard operating procedure, every time the President leaves for abroad.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the military's anti-coup Task Force Libra is on standby while the President is away.

"Even if there are no specific threats, all counterintelligence units are working around the clock," Golez said in a statement. "These actions are taken as a matter of SOP to meet any contingency, however unlikely."

Ebdane said the use of troops from Regions 3 and 4 to bolster security around Malacañang did not mean the government was anticipating a possible attempt to take over the Palace in the President's absence.

He blamed malicious text messages for the spread of rumors that a coup plot was in the offing, but looked uncomfortable when queried about the Black October Affair during a news conference at his Camp Crame office yesterday.

Unsigned copies of an ostensible report on the Black October Affair have been circulating since the start of the week.

The three-page document alleged that deposed president Joseph Estrada "and his supporters/advisers" planned to return to power by staging protest rallies and demonstrations during the whole month of October.

According to the report, the El Shaddai group of Estrada spiritual adviser Bro. Mike Velarde would provide the warm bodies for the rallies that would be staged in front of the Sandiganbayan, where the disgraced ex-president is being tried for plunder, and other pro-Estrada gatherings around Metro Manila.

Apparently, those involved in the Black October plot are eyeing a successful reprise of the botched "Edsa 3" gathering last April.

Following Estrada's arrest for plunder on April 25, his supporters gathered around the Our Lady of Edsa Shrine demanding justice for their fallen idol.

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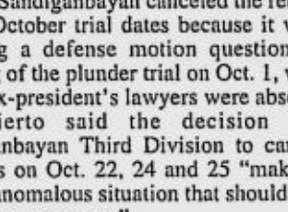
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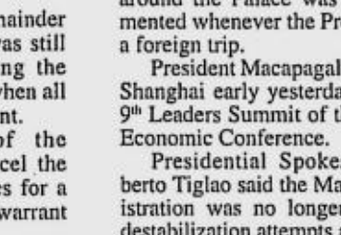
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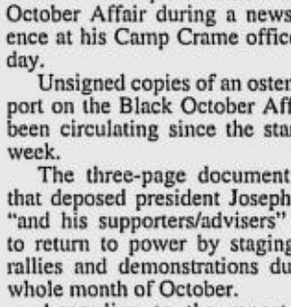

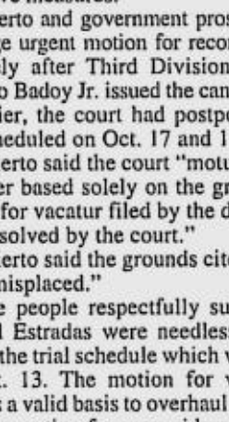
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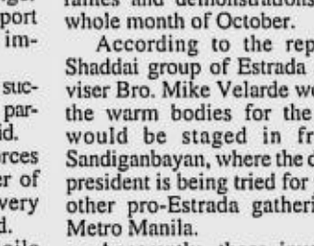
Center Table
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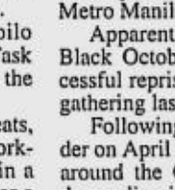
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Now: P7,800.

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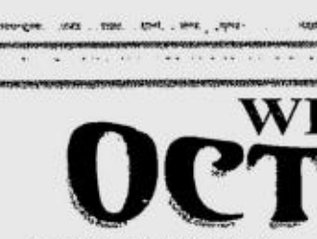

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Cops have 'surprise witness' in Quezon drug case

MITRA

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday a witness has surfaced with "personal knowledge" of the alleged illegal activities of the Quezon mayor arrested in the recent P1-billion drug bust.

"Our colleagues in the police said a very important witness has surfaced to shed light on the case. His testimony can be very vital because he has personal knowledge of what happened," Wycoco said at a press conference yesterday.

NBI agents and Philippine National Police Narcotics Group members arrested Panukulan town Mayor Ronnie Mitra last Saturday in an ambulance carrying some 500 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) worth P1 billion.

The ambulance belonged to the municipality of Panukulan and was travelling with a Starex van bearing commemorative plates that said "Mayor."

Three others arrested with Mitra were identified as Ruel Dequilla, Javier Morilla and Willy Yang.

Authorities believe the drug haul had been airdropped into the sea off Quezon province and was picked up by Mitra and his men.

Investigators said, however, they don't believe Mitra was the mastermind behind the illicit shipment. "We cannot believe Mitra is the mastermind. He just received the shipment," Wycoco said.

He said the NBI has a list of suspects but he declined to name them.

The other day, Sen. Panfilo Lacson bared an alleged plot to implicate him in the drug case.

Lacson had been accused of money laundering, drug dealing, kidnap for ransom, among other heinous crimes, by military intelligence.

He continues to deny the charges, including the last one implicating him in the Quezon billion-peso drug bust.

Wycoco said the NBI is trying to find out why the Pacific coastline of Quezon province has become the favorite drop-off point of illegal drugs from outside the country.

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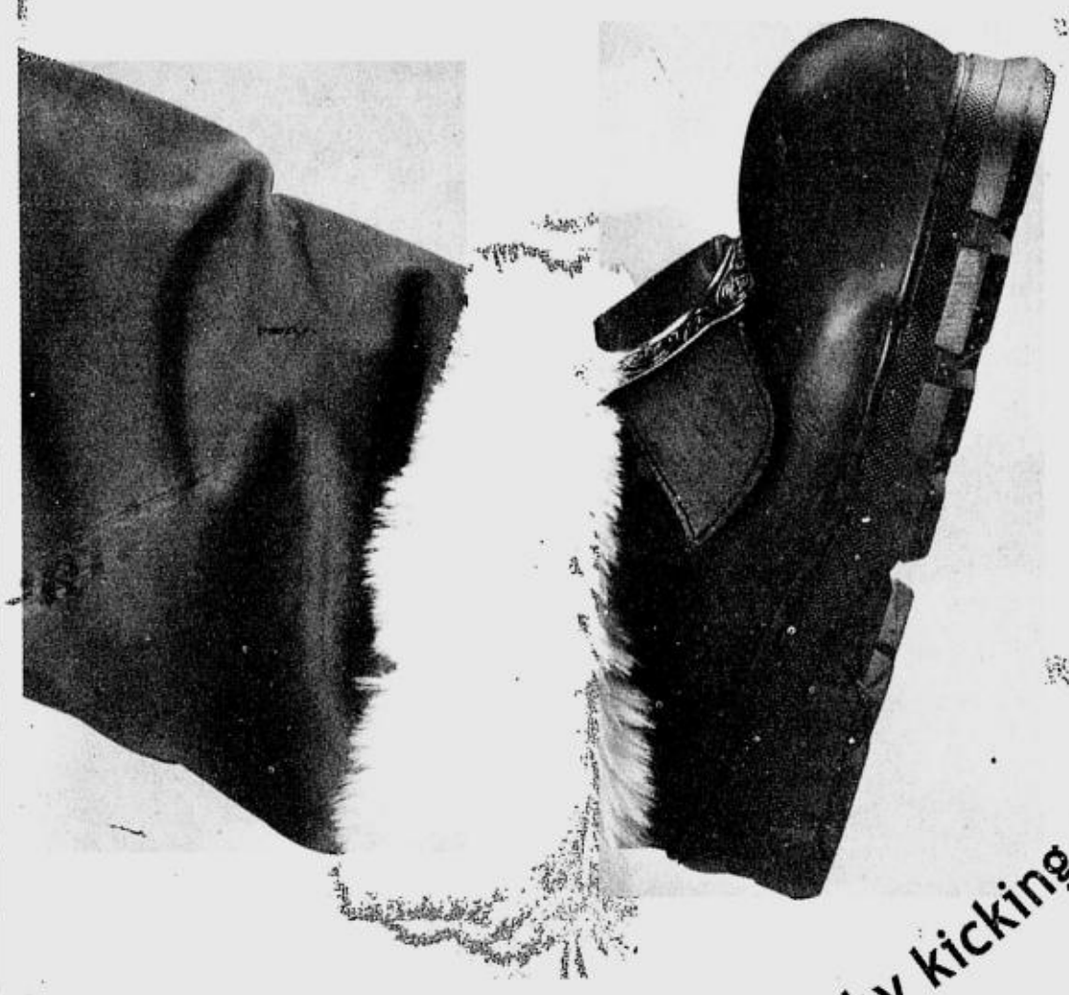
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OPINION

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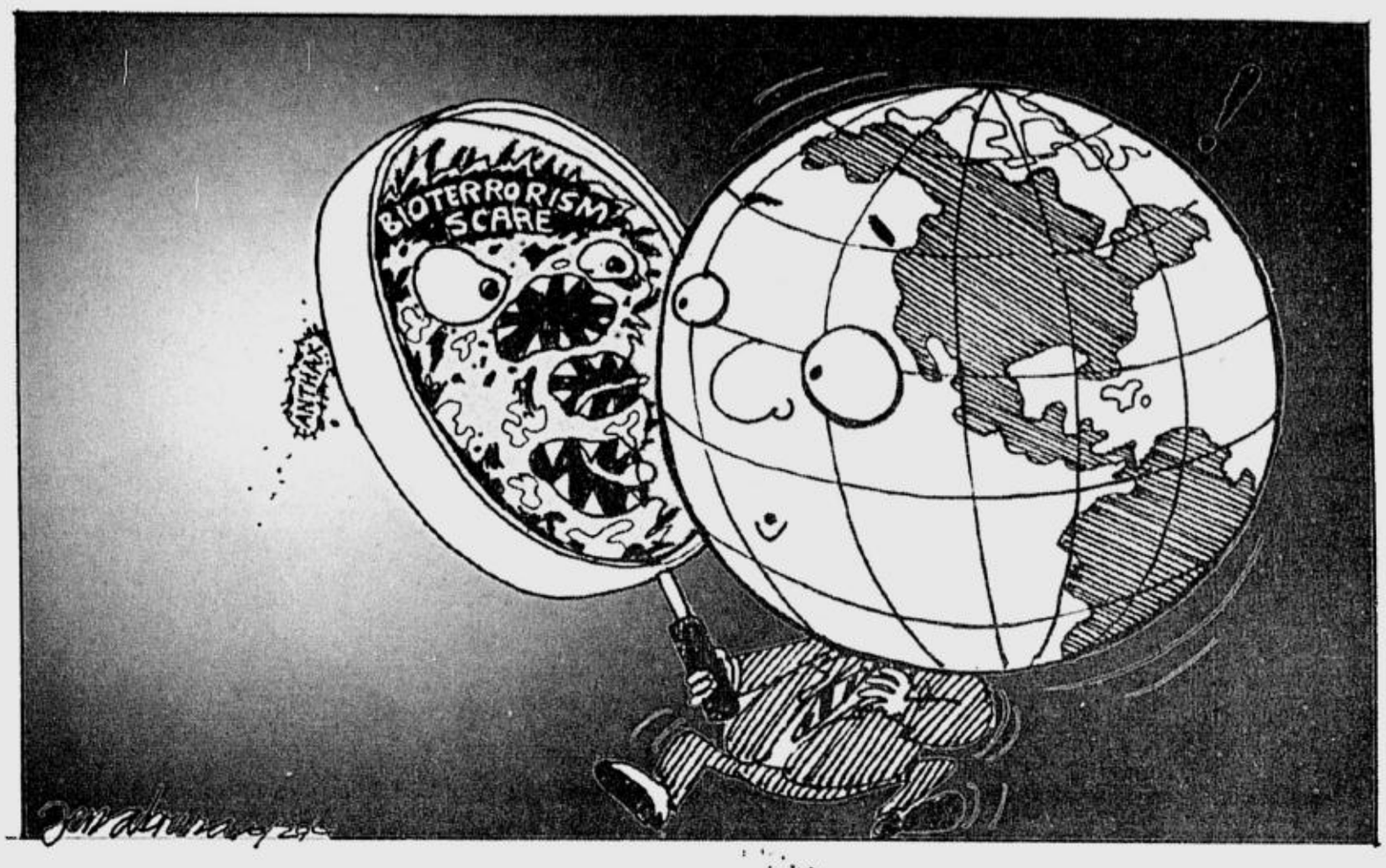

Politics in Apec

EDITORIAL

ECONOMICS took a backseat to the strengthening of the international coalition against terrorism when foreign ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting in Shanghai reached a consensus on Thursday condemning terrorism as a "fight between justice and evil, civilization and savagery."

The joint statement of the ministers, highlighting the consensus on terrorism, goes to the Apec summit for ratification this weekend. It came as the latest backing for the United States-led coalition in the campaign against terrorism, following similar resolutions from the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The strong language of the statement reflected strongly China's position, a fact that the United States and some of its allies, including Britain and the Philippines, welcomed. It was drafted under the direction of China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxun and echoed his condemnation that "anti-terrorism is a just struggle and a show of strength of civilization against barbarism rather than a conflict among different ethnic groups, religions or culture."

This declaration is a stinging rebuff of the issue raised by Osama bin Laden, the Al-Qaeda network, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and extremist strands in Islamic countries which has projected the terrorist attack in the United States as a war between "infidels" and Islam. The key points of the statement are that (1) all kinds of terrorist activities "pose a threat to international peace and security" and should be sternly condemned and fought against; (2) all anti-terrorist international covenants and resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council should be earnestly implemented, especially the prevention of any acts of financial terrorism; (3) it is necessary to strengthen international cooperation and give full play to the role of the UN and Security Council in combating terrorism; and (4) Apec foreign ministers believe that dialogue, accommodation and cooperation among different civilizations should be promoted.

The statement, however, played down the military aspects of the anti-terrorist campaign so as not to ruffle the feelings of the two Islamic nations in the 21-member Apec—Indonesia and Malaysia—which have called for a stop to the US bombings in Afghanistan.

The Apec is meeting with a political agenda for the first time since the East Timor conflict, which involved Indonesia and where UN peacekeeping effort was used, against the backdrop of the mainly economic concerns of the organization. The terrorist attacks on the United States have heightened the risks of a global recession, especially since the suicidal assaults came at a time when the world economy was already slowing down. The economic and political uncertainties stemming from the attacks have led to the scaling down of growth targets worldwide, with the Asian emerging markets expected to be hardest hit. The economic downturn has caused Apec ministers to call for the reinvigoration of world trade through a new round of market liberalization talks at the World Trade Organization next month.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo attends the Shanghai summit with the initiative calling for emphasizing economic security among the measures in the campaign against terrorism. Her initiative is backed by the enactment of the anti-money laundering act, which is now part of the international financial weaponry to squeeze out financial support to terrorist networks. She is also calling for closer cooperation among the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia in efforts to combat terrorism. This project, however, faces problems over how to achieve such cooperation, given that Indonesia and Malaysia are predominantly Muslim countries.

The best that can be said of the Manila initiative on economic security is that it dovetails with the framework of the foreign ministers' statement, and that the Philippine position reflects the basic approaches of the statement. Other than that, the larger role being played by the Philippines involves allowing US forces to use Subic and Clark for refueling of aircraft and transshipment of troops bound for Afghanistan. This support to the US-led military action is not shared by most of the Philippines' partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. But each nation in the region has a different idea of its own security and the role it should play in the fight against terrorism.

A splendid idea

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT had to take party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo to follow a suggestion I made many years ago in this column. In an article I wrote on Feb. 4, 1996, I called for "the eradication of the iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime" as mandated by the Freedom Constitution in 1986.

Nothing happened. Understandably, President Aquino herself, even with her extraordinary legislative powers before the adoption of the 1987 Constitution, could hardly be expected to take the initiative. She probably felt inhibited by the likelihood of being accused of vindictiveness as the prime enemy and victim of the Marcos dictatorship.

Congress had no similar misgivings, but it did not act either. It is true that both Senate President Jovito R. Salonga and Speaker Ramon V. Mitra had a bone to pick with the dictator. Salonga was persecuted in a case the Supreme Court ordered dismissed, and Mitra was among those detained when martial law was imposed. But they could have taken action not personally but as the leaders of their respective chambers.

Speaker Jose de Venecia was not minded either, obviously because he enjoyed behest loans from the Marcos government. His successor, Manuel Villar, was also not interested. As Senate president, Neptali A. Gonzales, Ernesto Maceda and Marcelo B. Fernan, all known oppositionists during martial law, could have done something but did not. Similar inaction was expected from Blas F. Ople and Edgardo Angara, who were important figures in the deposed despotism.

And so the iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime remained undisturbed, to continue reminding us of the abuses of Ferdinand Marcos and his imperious wife. Signs of the conjugal dictatorship are still around us. The stone visage of the dictator still mars the natural beauty of the mountains of La Union. I had suggested earlier that it be blasted into smithereens if only to symbolically demolish its ugly original. But it is still there to annoy people traveling to the North.

Many streets, parks and other public places, continue to carry the names of Marcos or Imelda. Among the more visible are the Marcos Highway, the Imelda Avenue in Metro Manila, and the Imelda Park in Baguio, not to mention the many other places named after the tyrant in his own turf in Ilocandia. Many children born during the martial law era were named after Marcos or Imelda but it is not known if they carry their names with pride, or shame.

Representative Ocampo's proposal is to change the name of the Marcos Highway to Lorenzo M. Tañada Avenue. It's a splendid idea we should all support.

The Marcos Highway is formally known as the Mariano Marcos Avenue after Ferdinand Marcos' father. The honor was bestowed upon the father to please the son, when Ferdinand Marcos was the supreme ruler of the Philippines. Every toady who wanted to truckle to him dreamed up many an unctuous scheme to massage the lord and master's ego.

Mariano Marcos has no claim to fame except for siring Ferdinand Marcos. Perhaps I should say "infamy" instead. Mariano Marcos is remembered in the local history of Ilocos Norte as a candidate who ran for the National Assembly and lost to Julio Nalundasan in 1935. Nalundasan was murdered the following day. Ferdinand Marcos was accused of the offense, convicted by the lower court but exonerated on appeal. There is still a strong feeling, though, that the young sharpshooter was guilty as charged.

Nothing more is remembered about Mariano Marcos to justify a highway fostering his memory. By contrast, Lorenzo M. Tañada is revered as one of our great nationalists, a brilliant lawyer who led the fight against martial law in the Supreme Court, a relentless defender of human rights, and an exemplary parliamentarian who graced the halls of the Senate along with the likes of Jose P. Laurel and Claro M. Recto.

Laurel has long been honored with the renaming of the Malacañang street after him and Don Claro with the change of Azcarraga to Recto Avenue. Buendia in Makati is now known as Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, and Montalban has been changed to Rodriguez (after Amang) in Rizal. But Senator Tañada has yet to be similarly honored, like many others deserving our remembrance.

Perhaps Congress should also change the name of Imelda Avenue, which remains an irksome reminder of its namesake's capriciousness. The street would be a more fitting honorific for, say, the esteemed Sen. Juan Sumulong, who declined the position of Chief Justice offered by Quezon and instead quixotically challenged him in the 1941 presidential election.

It is disturbing that instead of eradicating all hideous recollections of Ferdinand Marcos, the public schools in Ilocos Norte were reportedly used recently to perpetuate his flawed memory. Programs were held in his honor and the students were told of his supposed virtues that called for his veneration as a hero of our race.

That was all bunkum, of course. The ignorant children, who had not lived through the ordeal of martial law could have been brainwashed about the pseudo-patriot. They did not know any better about the transgressions of Saint Ferdinand.

Those who persist in the fantasy of Ferdinand Marcos' virtues berate us who detest him for his sins. We are called bigoted and vengeful. His defenders would sanctify that accursed era when their failed idol wielded absolute power and wielded it *against* his own country. They are his mercenary and covetous lackeys who would resurrect the baleful regime from which they profited unconscionably at the cost of so much suffering for the rest of the nation.

These fanatic followers have the right, if they so please, to revere even demons. Marcos may be their private hero although the rest of the country detest him as a scoundrel. They may worship him as they choose, but only in their own time, at their own rites, and with their own resources. They should not use the public schools to propagate their misguided loyalties and muddle the thinking of the susceptible schoolchildren.

The present generation has a right to know what villainies happened during the malignant reign of Ferdinand Marcos. Public places named after the dictator and his wife give the impression that they deserve our veneration. That is untrue; they are in fact justly abhorred by the nation they have betrayed. What the couple has really earned is the odium of the Filipino people, an international notoriety that has embarrassed us all, and the implacable condemnation of history.

What's Lacson up to?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

WHAT Sen. Panfilo Lacson has been trying to do these past few months has been described variously as using squid tactics, or confusing the issues, or trying to smear other people with the same slime, or applying diversionary tactics, or going on the offensive as the best way to defend himself, or hiding behind the cloak of congressional immunity as he lies through his teeth.

Victor Corpus he has labeled, at one time or another, as a communist mole in the intelligence community, or as a tool of Malacañang in its effort to destroy its enemies—the latter being defined as those who are potential threats to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's reelection. And therefore he is not to be believed.

Then there are Mawanay, Rosebud, Garganera and Devnani, whom he or his henchmen have either denied acquaintance with, or dismissed as liars (or *estafadors*, or gambling addicts) or in the payroll of others who are fearful of the threat he poses to their ambitions. And therefore they are not to be believed.

There is also Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who he says has money stashed away in Hong Kong—a part of which allegedly coming as bribe money from Mark Jimenez, with whom he (Perez) has been playing footsie. And therefore not to be believed.

For good measure, throw in the names of what Lacson calls communist-leaning or out-and-out communists like HUDCC Secretary Mike Defensor, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nani Braganza, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, as well as party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza. And therefore they are not to be believed.

And just for the heck of it, the more the merrier, drag in First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, too. There is after all another spouse that can be used in this effort, the spouse of Lacson's Senate media relations officer. There are excellent side effects too: Joker Arroyo and Johnny Flavier, two of the Senate's heretofore unsullied and most popular members, get their names dragged into the mud, too. And therefore they may no longer be believed.

All of these people, of course, with the exception of Mike Arroyo and possibly Flavier, have one thing in common: they have at one time or another associated Lacson's name with either murder, or kidnapping, or drug dealing, or some combination of the three. It should be clear to everyone what Lacson is trying to do: he is trying to impeach them, or their motives.

Are his tactics succeeding? Alas, yes.

First, because he has pandered to and brought out one of our less endearing but unfortunately all-too-pervasive traits: that crab mentality in us that delights in the misfortunes of others.

Second, because the charges and countercharges have sown so much confusion, people are no longer sure whom to believe, or they tend to forget the basic issue.

And third, because the confusion has engendered frustration among many people, resulting in their becoming more and more impatient of the circus atmosphere in the Senate, or of the self-indulgence of some of its members.

It has not helped that some of our politicians have themselves muddied the waters with their own ulterior motives, their own axes to grind. Or taken advantage of the muddied waters to pursue their own petty vendettas or hide their own shortcomings.

It is time to pause and remind ourselves to keep our eyes on the ball (mixing metaphors) or make sure that we don't miss the forest for the trees (mixing them even more).

The ball, the forest here, is the danger that the Philippines may well be on the way to becoming a narcostate. Let us keep in mind that the money involved in drug operations runs into billions of dollars, because the drugs are not brought in only to satisfy local demand, but because the country may also be a transshipment point. That mayor from that little town in Quezon obviously doesn't have the resources, much less the brains, for an operation that can transport half a ton of shabu at a time.

If the eyewitnesses, past and present, who have spoken against him are to be believed, Lacson may well be up to his eyeballs not only in drugs, but in murder and kidnapping as well. This, while he was sworn to protect the Filipino people against criminals.

Of course, these witnesses have not led upright and honest lives. If they did, they wouldn't have been involved in criminal activities in the first place, and they wouldn't have been in the position to testify to Lacson's involvement.

And, of course, they would be hard put to produce documentary evidence to back up their testamentary evidence. The text joke clearly highlights how ridiculous it is to expect such evidence: "next time you buy or sell drugs, or kidnap for ransom, be sure to get receipts—the Senate needs it."

What is important is that their stories seem to jibe with each other. What must not be forgotten is that Lacson is not only associated with human rights violations (per Amnesty International), he has been associated with one scandal after another: the killing of innocent farmers who were mistakenly identified as criminals, the Kuratong Baleleng massacre, the case of the missing ransom money, accounts in Hong Kong and elsewhere, kidnapping for ransom, drug recycling, the Dacer kidnapping and murder, the Bentain disappearance.

My sister uses some words to describe the most unsavory persons: scumbag, slimeball. If the accusations against Lacson are true, these descriptions would be an understatement.

What matters is Camacho's record in finance

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments is reportedly being questioned because of reports that his family, led by activist Narda Camacho, his mother, had put up streamers in their Urdaneta Village home in Makati City during the Edsa Dos rallies, hitting Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta. Sen. Blas F. Ople and Oreta herself asked whether such demonstrations of Camacho's political leanings were indications of his "emotional and psychological soundness."

I say that Lito Camacho is very sound. No better testimony of this can there be than his long record as a banker here and abroad, where he was connected with DeutscheBank. If his family's display of anti-Oreta streamers is an indication of emotional and psychological unsoundness, then half of this country's population must be unsound emotionally, for such streamers bloomed across the nation, especially near the Edsa Shrine, just after that infamous jig of Oreta in the Senate, and for weeks after. Those streamers were the emotional outlet of a nation that was disgusted by the political fanaticism for Erap of the kid sister of a national hero. The opposition senators should stop being silly and look at Camacho's record instead. Is he good for the country in that post or not? That should be the only consideration.

* * *

I join Cecile Guidote-Alvarez at her Radyo Balintataw program every Sunday at 9:15 p.m. where we focus on private sector initiatives to help alleviate the plight of the poor in our midst. Last Sunday and this coming Sunday, we taped shows featuring the ageless and glamorous former actress and civic worker, Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) governor and Ramon Magsaysay awardee Rosa Rosal, who was joined by communications manager, Tessie Usapdin. The Ramon Magsaysay Foundation two years ago recognized Rosal's 51 years of dedicated service to the Red Cross, which she began as a19-year-old volunteer. Her pretty face has become a familiar fixture at every blood-letting for the PNRC's blood bank, whose 86 chapters around the country rely mainly on the donations of students. What few know is that this indefatigable social worker has been running a private scholarship program funded principally by her $50,000 prize money from the Magsaysay Award, which she co-administers with banker Sonny Vistan.

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

* * *

The blood program is the most famous service provided by the PNRC in every calamity, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, dengue epidemic and even coup d'états. What's not very well known is that the PNRC has some modern facilities, which were put up through a vigorous campaign for donations over the years, where people can get a complete blood chemistry and urinalysis for only P660, a rate that is far lower than those charged by hospitals. For the indigent, the service comes free. Blood chemistry is important in determining the silent killer illnesses such as diabetes, high cholesterol and uric acid. This column would advise citizens to take advantage of this PNRC service.

In addition, the PNRC provides free counseling, check-up and hospitalization for women in crisis, such as those with unwanted pregnancies, or those who cannot afford the delivery. As the pro-life Rosal put it, "Come to us instead of to an abortion clinic and we'll take care of you and your baby."

* * *

The PNRC has a long history of service to the nation, but its big problem is still money. Its yearly operational budget is P292 million, but the blood program alone uses up over P100 million. The Red Cross provides service to all citizens, but the government subsidy is only P12 million a year from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. "If only the government could help us with at least P50 million for our blood program," Rosal said with a sigh, "we could go a long way."

The PNRC also needs vehicles badly (they only have two old Fieras), especially an ambulance. Recently, PNRC chair Leonor Ines Luciano wrote a letter of appeal to House appropriations committee chair Rolando Andaya for more funds, coursed through Rep. Robert Ace Barbers. I hope the two congressmen will help the PNRC.

* * *

Clarita Reyes-Lapus, president of the Mama Sita Foundation, launched a few weeks ago a search for the "Filipino Cooking Family," to which nominations are open until Nov. 30. I wrote that this award, which comes with a scholarship to any school of the winner's choice, was set up to honor the memory of Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes, who founded the Aristocrat chain of restaurants and the famous food mixes that are known all over the globe. I am afraid I got my facts mixed up. Clarita wrote to say that her grandmother, Engracia Cruz Reyes, founded Aristocrat Restaurant in 1936, when her daughter Teresita, who was "Mama Sita" to her children, among them my friends Clarita Lapus and Priscilla Pacheco, had just gotten married. Engracia herself was 44 at that time, and in 1992, the clan celebrated her centennial. Clarita said that Engracia's daughter Mama Sita was busy rearing her children, and it was actually her younger son Jose (who's celebrating his 79th birthday on Monday) who assisted his mother most in the business.

On the other hand, Mama Sita pioneered in sauces and mixes that carried her name when she was already 63. Clarita said her mother bloomed late because she "always prioritized her family's happiness over just making more money."

* * *

Former INQUIRER lifestyle editor Lilita Torralba-Logarta wrote to ask this column to warn owners and managers of business enterprises to be very careful about the PR practitioners they employ. She pointed out that many business people, in their desire to get publicity, fall for the sweet talk of unscrupulous individuals without investigating if they are really professional and honorable PR practitioners. Recently Logarta found out that a certain individual was using her name and byline, as well as those of other journalists and editors in press releases and features about his client, a hamburger company. Many editors were fooled into using those releases. When she found out, Logarta promptly brought up the matter to the PR man's client, who turned out to have been also bombarded with disclaimers from other journalists. That very day the PR man was fired. The client assured Logarta that they didn't know what was going on.

This episode should serve as a lesson to businessmen. And to the PR practitioners, there's no better way than to be honest in your dealings with your clients.

Journey of the tree

FOUR summers ago, my mom and I had a fight. It was a Sunday morning and, as usual, she told me to dress up because we were going to go to Mass.

For the first time in my 16 years, I refused to go. At the time I was already seriously questioning the significance of such a ritual. More and more, it seemed to me that there was no meaning in attending Mass. For me, it was just something I had to do every Sunday because it had always been that way. Because my family always attended Mass, I had to go too, because it was simply unthinkable not to do so. But it was becoming old. It was becoming a routine. It was becoming artificial.

YOUNGBLOOD

Judy Alice Uy Repol

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

My mom naturally reprimanded me for thinking such things. She said that it was the Devil himself who was influencing me. "*Kung ganyan din lang naman ang iniisip mo, sana hindi ka na lang naging matalino,*" she declared. She said I had no right to go against her authority because "*anak lang kita.*"

In the end, even if I wanted to go just to get it over with, my pride and stubbornness prevailed. I did not attend Mass that Sunday, and for days, my mom and I did not talk to each other.

After six agonizing days, I apologized to her and cried in her arms. The next day, we went to Sunday Mass together.

How I wished my inner torture ended that day. But I knew that finding Mass pointless was merely an indication of a deeper, bigger, nagging question. No matter how much I tried to deny it and keep it at the back of my mind, what I had come to realize kept surfacing and taunting me with the gravity of its words: I no longer found meaning in being Catholic.

At first, I felt afraid and guilty. There were times when I half-expected the skies to open up and see God sending down a great bolt of lightning to strike me in punishment for my heresy. I became so paranoid that I found myself asking more than once, "Could it be possible that I am already being swayed by the power of Satan?" These thoughts left me sleepless and terrified. And it came to a point when I decided that I had to confront the issue of my perceived loss of religion instead of just pushing it to the back of my mind.

It was not because I had lost my faith in God that I was questioning the tenets of Catholicism. It was because I felt that being Catholic was preventing me from having a more meaningful relationship with God. Somewhere along the way, the Church had lost its importance and authority for me. It could have been the mechanical rituals of the liturgy, the thought of listening to a sermon made by a high and mighty priest who, everyone in town knew, to be keeping a wife and five children, or the sight of old ladies wearing scapulars sharing the latest gossip even when they are singing "Our Father," or perhaps the thoughtless mumbling of "Pray for us" in response to the seemingly endless litany after praying the rosary.

Where was God in all these? I asked myself. With all the religions in the world, how was I to know that what I was taught to believe in was really the truth? I thought I could no longer find God in the Catholic Church, in the religion that was merely passed on to me by my parents. I realized that I was seeking for answers and I believed that I must find them outside the Church.

In the process of searching, my mother's words kept coming back to me: that it would have been better if God would just take away my brain so I would not be capable of intellectualizing and rationalizing my faith. Yes, in a way, it would have been better if I had the blind faith that she had, to merely accept everything without question, to be comfortable with the familiar. Yes, it would have been a happy, less complicated life, but in my case, it would have been a happy, yet empty life.

As I refused to limit my spiritual growth within the confines of the Church, as I searched for that which is the truth for me and not the truth as dictated by authority, as I came upon beliefs that resonated with who I am and filled the empty void left by conformity, I like to believe that now, I have come into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God. I believe that He let me find Him in my own way, in my own time, and did not let anyone else do the finding for me. I believe that I have been with Him, although what I had were mere fleeting snatches of Him who is Encompassing, Undefinable, Supreme. I believe I have seen God in the beauty of the clouds as the sun turns the sky into magnificent hues of purple and orange as it sinks in the horizon. God is in the love shining in my mother's eyes whether she smiles at me or scolds me for wrongdoing. God is in the silence of prayer, where I am cradled by the only arms that can give true happiness.

I have challenged the dogmas and traditions of my religion. I have vowed not to let myself stagnate within the stifling system of the Catholic Church. I have allowed myself to question, to change and to find my own truth.

And yet, if you ask me now if I still consider myself a Catholic, I would say yes. Just like a tree whose roots have kept it standing, in the journey of searching, in the struggle to grow and receive light, I was not led astray for I knew that what held me firm, what gave me sustenance, what inspired me, was nothing else but the roots of my Catholic faith. All the doubts, all the questions, all the defiance have molded me into the person I have become: a Catholic who now sees Sunday Mass as a celebration with the community and not as an imposed chore; the rosary as a tool for deep meditation and not a cacophony of trivial phrases; and the homily as a source of wisdom for the times and not as the priest's forum for hypocritical bashing.

Just like that tree, I will still grow. I will still change. I will still learn. With growth, with change, with learning, I will find myself. I will find meaning. I will find the truth. I will find God.

Judy Alice Uy Repol, 19, is a third year BS Legal Management student of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The unaskable–answered

BECAUSE she has just celebrated a birthday, and has just won a Lifetime Achievement Award from an international journalism body, it fell on Tita Eggie Apostol to ask the "unaskable" question.

"So. Mr. Secretary," she asked in her coquettish best, "is it true you are the ex of the President?" All the women around the table burst into laughter, while Justice Secretary Nani Perez's aides blanched.

"I'm so embarrassed whenever that's brought up, but I learned to live with it after Mike Arroyo himself told me to ignore the rumors," he said.

The nasty talk began after Perez, as representative of the LDP, began to court (only in the metaphorical sense, of course) then Trade Undersecretary Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to run for senator under the party's wing. I believe he was unsuccessful in that bid, but by the time Ms Macapagal, then the vice president, had resigned from the Erap Cabinet, Perez was one of her most trusted and senior advisers.

"It's like the houseboy (or better yet, the gardener) falling in love with the lady of the house," he remarked.

What does his wife say about them? "She laughs at them; in fact, she's the one who brings it up."

Though the relationship between the Cabinet member and his boss is strictly official and political, it has not prevented Perez, who breeds orchids for relaxation, from naming two orchid hybrids after her. The first, the Malvarosa Princess Gloria, when she was still a senator, and the second, Vanda Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, when she became vice president. What with so many problems and scandals on his plate, says Perez, he no longer has time to visit his orchid farm, much less name new hybrids after his boss.

At that, his cell phone rang and by the way he snapped to attention and issued a crisp "Yes, Ma'am," we knew who had called. Did she find out what we had just been talking about? we wondered.

* * *

IN SEARCH of an unknown (for now, but not for long) dining place that offers up a calming ambience, terrific food and unobtrusive service?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

The other night, my good friend Sandra Puno of Nestlé Philippines treated me and another good friend, Peachy Yamsuan, editor of Family Today Magazine, to dinner at a place called Pintu Gila.

***Pintu* what? Pintu Gila, said restaurant manager and co-owner Christine Zialcita, is Bahasa for "on the road to craziness."**

When we all gave her a blank stare, she added: "Crazy in the funny, excited, wacky sort of way, of course."

But perhaps the name is apropos, too, for the customers' reaction to Pintu Gila's distinctly Singaporean-Malaysian cooking. One mouthful of the spicy, saucy, salty-sweet and pungent offerings, and one is bound to go, pardon the indelicacy, ape shit.

Sandra was lusting after only one dish, the signature crab dish called "Dynamite Delight." (The menu says, though, that one can order a prawn version of it, too.) She had had it just three days previously and couldn't wait for a second round.

What sets it apart from other crab dishes is the sauce, a rich, dark fragrant concoction of crab fat, dark bean paste, chili and "secret spices" that sent us humming the moment we had a mouthful. In due time, I had set aside the utensils and was wrangling with the crab by hand, mixing the flesh with the hot rice and sprinkling sauce over it, then shoveling it in. Before the crab came, we had daintily picked at our appetizers, a tofu dish rather provocatively named "Foreskin Foreplay," and had a side dish of fried noodles topped by very fresh vegetables. But I tell you, you'll forget all inhibitions once the crab lands on your table.

There were no desserts on the menu, but Christine let us try slices of "Macadamia Rum Cake," which she said her sister baked and was testing to see how customers would like it. "Serve it, serve it," we urged her between bites.

Pintu Gila, with its rather minimalist architecture and interiors with touches of tropical style (check out their restrooms), was refurbished from an old house that had also been used as a hardware store. It's so new it doesn't even have signage. It can be found along Shaw Boulevard, on the right if you're coming from Edsa, past the old Toyota dealership. Don't worry, you'll find it, the crab will be calling to you.

* * *

"I LOVE it here, Mom, it's like a small Rockwell," my daughter remarked when we first drove through Eastwood City, in the burgeoning Libis area.

Officially, Eastwood City is a mixed-use development, dominated by a "cyber-park" where e-businesses are clustered. But that's not what Eastwood City is best known for.

These days, people flock to Eastwood City for the restaurants, clustered around a small plaza with a fountain, and offering up a relaxed, open-air and casual ambience in the middle of the city.

Recently, I had a chance to try the just-opened Chicago Road House, which is located in a cul-de-sac just around the corner from the Seattle's Best Coffeehouse and across from Mama Rosa's.

Chicago Road House is a family affair. It's run by the brother-sister team of Greg and Rowena Galang, but their parents, Charito and Tony, are not far away, kibitzing. Tony, say his friends, is quite an accomplished chef, too, but he has so far been unable to overcome his children's objections to adding his favorite native fare to the menu. "It goes against the concept, Dad," they tell him.

True to the concept, Chicago Road House specializes in grilled steaks, ribs, and cutlets, as well as pasta, sausages (cooked up right in the premises), and a mean nachos combination. The décor brings one back to the Chicago of the gangster era, all dark wood and period photos, though there are souvenir items, too, from the heyday of the Chicago Bulls. Whatever works for the concept, right?

'Brigandage is common in the PI'

THAT was the opinion of Dr. Stuntz, the presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1905. In mountainous areas, the brigands were known as *insurrectos, ladrones*, or *pulajanes* and at other times they were called outlaws.

It seems that these bands of outlaws were the reason the Philippine Constabulary was organized. There were misgivings at first over the idea of recruiting Filipinos because it was feared some could have relatives or friends among the outlaws. There were also doubts as to their loyalty but finally the Philippine Commission decided that even if there were defections, "judicious selection and discipline" would counter the dangers. (I underscored the criteria for recruitment then because of the amount of problems we're encountering with the Armed Forces. Let's not forget that in the not too distant past the Constabulary was reputed to be the most corrupt.)

The Philippine Commission took into account the fact that the Spanish army consisted mainly of Filipinos who remained loyal to Spain despite being poorly fed and inadequately paid besides having been recruited from the oppressed masses. They also took into account the experience of the British who "as a general rule had been served faithfully by her native soldiers, even against their own brethren."

The chief of the Philippine Constabulary, Gen. Henry Allen, claimed that "it is unwise to ignore the great moral effect of a strong armed force above suspicion" (underscoring mine). Apparently it worked because the band led by Rios in Tayabas and Laguna; by San Miguel in Bulacan and Rizal; Modesto Joaquin and Protacio Flores in Pangasinan; Roman Manalang in Zambales and Pangasinan; Timoteo Pasay and the Feliz brothers in Rizal; Dalmacio and Rufo in Western Visayas; Flores in Misamis; Anugar in Samar; Concepcion in Surigao; Colache in Sorsogon; and Encarnacion in Tayabas were eliminated.

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

The following leaders were captured: Rios of Tayabas; Faustino Ablena of Samar; and Fernandez of Laguna. A certain Papa Isio in Negros and a King Apo in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija remained free. It was said that Filipinos would approach a camp and ask an officer who they felt was trustworthy, how much he was willing to pay to have a certain *insurrecto* who was troubling them brought in or "removed." (Present-day usage: "salvaged.") If the troublemaker was an ordinary outlaw, the price was $5 but for a prominent leader it was $10, since "the risk was too great to undertake the 'removal' for a smaller sum."

The Reverend John Devins reported a story, which could be apocryphal, about a Constabulary company that was passing through Tarlac. In a guardhouse was a man who had previously been a town official. He invited the members to lunch and eight soldiers accepted. When the officer and one soldier who had gone off to see some friends returned, they found several soldiers writhing in pain and the rest exhibiting signs of illness. The former official and all the residents present were promptly arrested while the poisoned soldiers were given treatment.

It's interesting to note that the culprit poisoned the drinking water to steal the guns and ammunition because "Salvador told me to do it." When he realized that what he had done could earn him a prison sentence or even execution for attempted murder, he went off after Salvador himself, aided by his family and friends.

Salvador apparently professed to have miraculous and supernatural powers and had been attempting to rouse the population against the Americans. Unfortunately, he had also taken to raiding towns in the surrounding areas.

After some setbacks he withdrew to the hinterlands of Nueva Ecija where the pastor lost track of him.

Dr. Stuntz believed that brigandage would prosper, as it had for more than a century, unless industrial and commercial prosperity eased the burdens of poverty. "War, plague, cholera, locusts and rinderpest have formed a condition that leads many into lawlessness." (Maybe we should add politics to our present list.)

Devins, on the other hand, believed that the reason brigandage began to taper down was that "trials and convictions have been speedy and the evildoers now recognize that the days of pardon and amnesty are gone. The firm stand taken by the government, the consistent work of the courts, the field service of the Constabulary and Scouts, the vigilance of the division of information have been effective in reducing vicious elements and encouraging people interested in prosperity and the general welfare of the Philippines."

There isn't any doubt, no matter how much the spokesperson for the police denies it, that there is a frightening breakdown in law and order in our country today. Worse, the very people who are supposed to protect the populace are the ones believed to be responsible for heinous crimes. Perhaps there may still be officials who believe that their first duty is to serve the public rather than to get themselves reelected. In which case they may want to study the solutions prescribed in the reports of the Philippine Commission to restore peace and order. They might just work.

(Data from Rev. John Devins' "An Observer in the Philippines" 1905.)

THEY SAID

Exorbitant salaries

"From whatever viewpoint, as government officials they should not be receiving monthly salaries equal to the combined monthly paychecks of a hundred clerks and secretaries."

—Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran on salaries of the Government Service and Insurance System's executives

Joy of service

"There's nothing more rewarding than to see other people's joy in all the sacrifices, efforts and heart that we put in just to see them in tattered clothes no more."

—Col. Cesario Atienza on his and soldiers of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8's efforts to rebuild the lives of people in war-torn Maguindanao

UN peacekeeping

"The United Nations must hold accountable any country that supports or condones terrorism or you will fail in your primary mission as peacekeepers."

—New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani

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Organized labor's impractical demand

WHEN I see the organized labor sector insisting on getting a P125 across-the-board salary increase for Filipino workers, I can't help but think of the Koreans who at one time sold their personal belongings and jewelry and gave the proceeds to their government to help it survive a crisis. The Japanese workers came to my mind also for when they want a pay hike they do not hold strikes but work doubly hard to show their employers their worth.

This is not to denigrate Philippine organized labor. Our labor force is one of the world's most competent and finest and its demand is legitimate, given the economic squeeze everybody is going through at the moment. But our labor sector should be practical enough to admit that the present circumstances make it impossible for the employers to meet the workers' demands.

There is a recession and the Philippines is not the only country affected. All other countries are affected, too. And then came the terrorist attacks on the center of economic power, the United States, which made matters worse.

At this time of worldwide recession, our organized labor should be thankful for whatever pay hike the employers can afford to give, even if it is much lower than P125 daily. After all, what counts more is that the workers have what millions are losing all around the world: permanent jobs.—**CECILIA NARABAL, 134 Doña Soledad Ext., Parañaque City**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Low-class tourism service

I'D like to tell you about the lousy service my American friend and I got on our trip to Boracay last September in the hope that by writing about it, something can be done to improve the quality of tourism in our country.

You see, my American friend booked the presidential suite of a resort based on the pictures and write-up on the websites. We found out that the suite was just two rooms with a connecting door. It boasted a jacuzzi, but it wasn't working. The air conditioner also wasn't working in my friend's room (which they repaired, but only on the following day). The water pressure in the showers was low, and the hot water suddenly turned cold in the middle of usage, even though there was only one other room occupied in the whole resort. Although there was a refrigerator, there was no minibar as advertised. The facilities were definitely **not** world-class.

As to service, the write-up said the suites had local and international direct dialing. But when we wanted to make a local call, we still had to pass through an operator and it took a long time. It claimed to be an AA resort, which means that it should have foreign/monetary exchange. But even when my friend just wanted to change his money to smaller bills, they referred him to the desk and the restaurant, both of which did **not** have change.

I also have specific complaints regarding hygiene. The trash in my room wasn't taken out for the whole duration of our four-day stay, and in the end I could count all the water bottles I had bought. I also complained that they didn't clean their beachfront in the mornings. But even after I complained, the service guy just raked the sea trash into mounds and left them there. When I pointed this out to the officer in charge, she reasoned out that it was high tide. However, I pointed out that other resorts like Friday's still managed to clean their beachfronts. It was only then that she told the staff to take out the trash from the beach, but the following day they still left them in mounds.

Now we understand that it's the low season. But that doesn't excuse them from providing lower quality service just because there are fewer guests. If that's the case, then they shouldn't be open at all. My American friend is willing to pay top dollar for good service. That's why he chose the presidential suite. We could have gotten cheaper accommodations in other resorts.

What totally pissed us off was that after the first night we wanted to cut our losses and transfer to another resort to save the rest of our vacation. However, they insisted on holding him to his prepaid reservation. When my friend complained to the OIC, she said she couldn't do anything about it since the offices in Metro Manila were closed during the weekend, and the general manager was on vacation and couldn't be reached. Well, she didn't want to ruin the manager's vacation, but she managed to ruin ours.—**JOEY TOLEDO, jst@gmanetwork.com**

Where's that savings statement from Pag-IBIG?

THIS is a reaction to Margie A. Jorillo's (officer in charge, public affairs and information office of the Home Development Mutual Fund) response to the queries of Edmundo G. Leaño of Isabela.

According to Jorillo, Pag-IBIG members' dividends are credited to the members' total savings and they are provided with an Employee's Statement of Accumulated Value (Esav) yearly.

This statement is not true. I have been a Pag-IBIG member for almost 20 years and up to now I have not received a single Esav. It is also true of several Pag-IBIG members whom I talked to.

I will be glad if Jorillo provides me a copy of my Esav immediately and so will millions of other members of Pag-IBIG.—**WILLIE T. STA. ANA, Public Attorney's Office, Room 309, 3rd Floor, City Hall of Justice, Diliman, Quezon City**

Who are emotionally immature?

ONCE more, the inability of opposition Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Blas Ople to see beyond their petty concerns was demonstrated when they opposed Jose Isidro Camacho's confirmation as finance secretary on the grounds that his family had criticized some senators (in the form of posters hitting Oreta and a letter from Camacho's mother addressed to Ople).

These two characters must have forgotten that any citizen of the republic has the fundamental right to criticize the performance (or lack of it) of any public official. And that the description used in the poster against Oreta may aptly describe her actuations during the Senate hearing when she did her famous victory jig. (Of course, it's very possible that the members of the world's oldest profession might take offense at being associated with her.) Camacho's mom is a citizen of the republic and she can criticize any elected official to her heart's content.

Ople justified his opposition to Camacho's confirmation by claiming that "the use of derogatory words against an elected senator is indicative of extreme emotional immaturity."

On the contrary, Camacho clearly demonstrated a strong emotional and moral foundation when he owned up to the responsibility for the actions of his politically involved family members as head of his household.

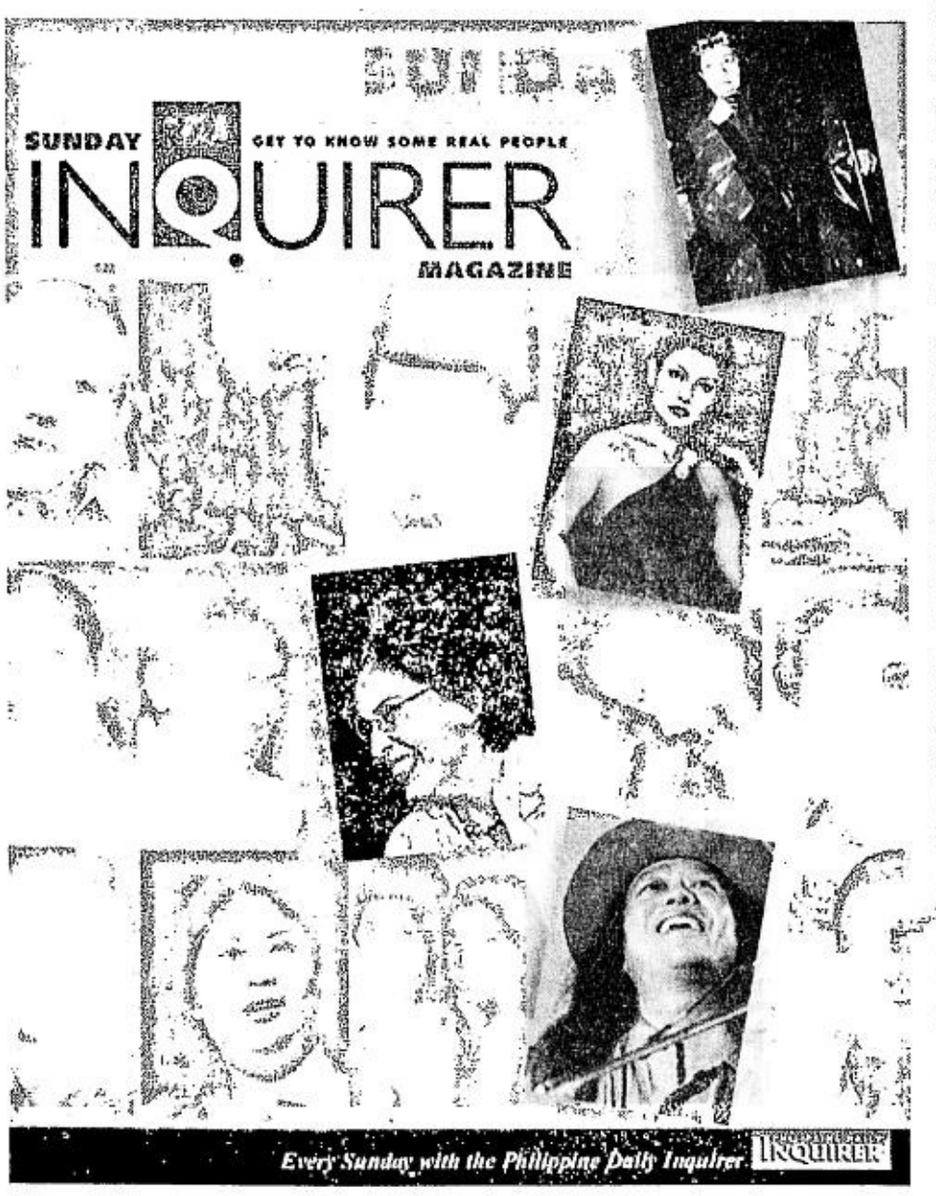
If Senators Oreta and Ople want to see what "emotional immaturity" looks like, they should look at the mirror. And if they can't see beyond their petty concerns, they don't deserve to sit on the Commission on Appointments.—**ED DAMES, 25th Floor, The Enterprise Center Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Litigation and preservation of assets go together

MAY I just clarify a statement attributed to me in your story titled, "Imelda's arrest order: 'A first step'." I was quoted as saying that it was important for the Presidential Commission on Good Government to "prioritize litigation" rather than "look after the preservation of sequestered assets."

On hindsight, my sentence construction was terribly wrong. I should have articulated my point in a more precise way. I certainly did not intend to say that the PCGG should not preserve sequestered assets or suggest that it should litigate its cases at the expense of the assets that are the subject of such litigation. What I intended to convey was my personal observation that in the past, there were instances when a few PCGG nominees to the directorships of some sequestered corporations appeared more interested in maintaining those positions, and because of the corresponding inertia in the litigation, relied on the notion that such positions were long-term, rather than provisional and dependent on moving the litigation forward.

In any event, what I should have said was that the PCGG should litigate its cases as vigilantly as it monitors and preserves sequestered assets. After all, if and when the cases are decided in the government's favor, it is the Filipino people who will recover the wealth stolen from them.—**RUBEN CARRANZA JR., commissioner, Presidential Commission on Good Government, IRC Building, 82 Edsa, Mandaluyong City**



Guingona's absence from official functions explained

THIS refers to Amando Doronila's column of Oct. 15, 2001 titled, "GMA foreign policy control leaves DFA in shambles."

In the column, he spoke of "disarray and a leadership vacuum, reflected by the bumbling and incompetent foreign secretary."

We at the Department of Foreign Affairs take exception to this. Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona's impressive credentials and sterling track record in both the legislative and executive branches speak eloquently for him. It will be recalled that, prior to his current position, the Vice President had a long and outstanding career in politics, having been elected to various positions, the latest of which was as a senator of the Philippines. He also served the country in different capacities in the executive branch, among them, as justice secretary, chair of the Commission on Audit and as executive secretary.

With regard to the instances of "breach of protocol" Doronila mentioned in his column, allow me to clarify what he unfairly described as "symptoms of disarray." The Vice President's absence at Spain's national day reception on Oct. 12 was unavoidable. He left for Prague, Czech Republic two days earlier to attend a human rights forum. His executive assistant promptly sent his regrets. I was supposed to represent the DFA at the reception, but I had to attend the dinner in honor of visiting Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Doronila also stated that the perception is that the Vice President gives preference to political callers rather than diplomatic visitors and that his executive assistant "capriciously cancelled at the last minute Guingona's appointments with ambassadors who have been cooling their heels at the reception room."

This is completely false. In fact, the Vice President has always been accessible to the diplomatic community, and there have been occasions when ambassadors were able to call on him even without prior appointment.

The Vice President was unable to attend the opening of the photo exhibit marking the 25th anniversary of RP-Russia relations because of a Cabinet meeting, as well as the national day reception of China because it fell on the birthday of the late President Diosdado Macapagal and he was invited by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to go to the Libingan ng mga Bayani and later to attend the dinner with the Japanese ambassador.

As for the German national day of unification, he also sent his regrets because the President asked him to represent her at the 13th Asian-Pacific Congress of Cardiology, where she was supposed to be the guest of honor. I attended the German national day reception on his behalf and even delivered the toast.

It is not true that the Vice President "brought in outsiders now forming his cordon sanitaire." While it is true that he has brought with him to the DFA persons who enjoy his trust and confidence, they merely act in accordance with his instructions and they do not have any line functions.

With respect to Undersecretary Merlin M. Magallona, permit me to clarify that the Office for Migrant Workers Affairs was not specially created for him. This office is provided for in the Migrant Workers Act. President Macapagal appointed Magallona to head the office.

In the formulation of policy on international terrorism, Guingona actively participated in sub-Cabinet and Cabinet discussions. A DFA working paper on the basis of the Philippines' role in the international coalition under the UN Security Council resolution on terrorism was in fact favorably endorsed by the National Security Council.

Regarding the State of the Nation Address and Doronila's claim that the policy paper prepared by career officers was "quarantined," the DFA submitted its inputs to the Office of the President, but the final version of course reflected the President's priorities.

Finally, on the appointments of ambassadors, the Vice President, as foreign secretary, recommended qualified career diplomats for ambassadorial posts. In accordance with the Constitution, however, the President has the sole prerogative to make the appointments, with the concurrence of the Commission on Appointments.—**FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN, acting foreign secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs, 2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

A MUSLIM woman's sunglasses reflect fellow demonstrators and their banners during a "Walk Against War" organized by a group of professionals in Islamabad Oct. 18. More than 400 people have been killed so far in US strikes on Afghanistan and the country is running short of food and medicine, Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Salam Zaeef said in a statement Thursday. REUTERS

Probers connecting anthrax outbreak to Sept. 11 attacks

WASHINGTON—US investigators suspect the anthrax letters sent around the country are related to the Sept. 11 suicide plane attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, The New York Times said Friday.

While they lack concrete evidence or intelligence, federal agents told the daily they are investigating the possibility that members of Saudi-born extremist Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network are behind the anthrax outbreak.

According to Tom Ridge, director of the newly created Office of Homeland Security, the anthrax bacteria has so far infected 38 people in the United States, including six who contracted the disease, one of whom died. Anthrax-laced letters were also received in Kenya and Argentina.

US authorities blame Bin Laden for the terrorist attacks last month that killed more than 5,000 people, and have not ruled out the possibility his people are also responsible for the rash of anthrax letters.

President George W. Bush said Friday in Shanghai that he had no "knowledge of a direct link of the anthrax incidents to the enemy" in Afghanistan, "but I wouldn't put it past them."

The Times said federal investigators were focusing on two anthrax letters sent to Sen. Tom Daschle and NBC News anchorperson Tom Brokaw that were mailed from a 1.6-sq. km. area of West Trenton, a neighborhood in Trenton, New Jersey, that was home to some hijackers and suspected members of al-Qaida.

In particular, the daily said the probe had narrowed down to a letter carrier in West Trenton who Thursday was infected with anthrax. His route, the daily said, covered 250 to 500 homes and businesses investigators believe was the source of the letter Brokaw received.

Investigators were also focusing on the ability of the hijackers to obtain highly refined anthrax. Mohammed Atta, the hijackers' ringleader, was interested in cropdusting aircraft that could be used to spread anthrax or other toxic substances, they pointed out. *AFP*

Providing Afghan aid becoming difficult

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—Taliban troops seize relief depots at gunpoint. Medical compounds are looted. Drivers in aid convoys watch bombs falling as they negotiate bomb-cratered roads. Precious food stocks go up in flames as an aid compound is mistakenly targeted.

With each passing day, the work of getting aid to the people of Afghanistan is becoming more fraught with chaos and peril.

The stakes could hardly be higher. Even before the start of the US-led air assault, millions of people in impoverished, drought-stricken, war-battered Afghanistan were in dire need of food aid to survive the winter, whose onset is only a few weeks away. In some steep mountain passes, snow is already on the ground.

The 12-day-old bombing campaign has coincided with a series of sharp setbacks for relief agencies operating inside Afghanistan, and in the frontline states that border it. Some of the danger lies with the bombardment itself—and some with the Taliban fury the air assault has aroused.

Armed gangs

On Thursday, the aid group Doctors Without Borders said it had shut down medical programs in two Afghan cities after armed gangs looted them of medicine, equipment and vehicles. The offices in the southern city of Kandahar and the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif had supported hospitals and child-nutrition programs in six Afghan provinces, a spokesperson said.

"Now there are no medical facilities for these people, so this is a desperate situation," said Morten Rostrup, a spokesperson for Medecins Sans Frontieres, as the group is known in French.

On Tuesday, armed Taliban troops commandeered two wheat-filled UN World Food Program warehouses, one in the capital, Kabul, and one in Kandahar, the Taliban's home base.

On Thursday, they relinquished control of the Kabul supplies without explanation, but there was still no word on when—or if—the rest of the food stocks would be returned. Together, the warehouses contain nearly 7,700 tons of wheat—more than half the WFP's stockpile in Afghanistan.

Aid workers said they were relieved to get most of the food back, but privately noted there was nothing to stop the Taliban from taking it again.

Inside Afghanistan, the greatest risks are borne by international agencies' Afghan workers, many of whom have tried to keep doing their jobs amid the bombardment and increasing tensions with the Taliban. Foreign aid workers were withdrawn and other foreigners told to leave before the air assault began. *AP*

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7 killed as violence surges anew in Mideast

JERUSALEM—Israeli-Palestinian violence surged and seven people were killed in the bloody aftermath of the assassination of a far-right Israeli Cabinet minister.

The bloodshed and threats by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of tougher retribution could deal another blow to US-led peace efforts that Washington had hoped could boost Arab support for its offensive in Afghanistan.

Three Palestinians, including Atef Abayat, a militant on Israel's most-wanted list, were killed on Thursday in a blast that tore through a car in the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

In the early hours of Friday, Israeli forces moved about 100 meters into Palestinian-controlled Bethlehem during a battle with gunmen in which at least four Palestinians were wounded, witnesses said. The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

Palestinians said Israel killed Abayat, a commander of militants belonging to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction in the biblical city.

Israel said Abayat was responsible for the deaths of five Israelis and suggested he was preparing a car bomb that detonated prematurely.

After the explosion, gunmen in the Bethlehem suburb of Beit Jala fired at Gilo, a Jewish settlement, which Israel regard as a neighborhood of Jerusalem. Soldiers returned fire as tracer bullets marked the revival of a battlefront dormant for weeks.

Straining an increasingly brittle ceasefire further, Palestinian gunmen killed one Israeli civilian and wounded two others near the West Bank city of Jericho. The Israelis were on a jeep tour of the Judean desert when they were ambushed.

Earlier, a 10-year-old Palestinian girl and two Palestinian policemen died during fighting that ensued after Israeli tanks and infantry rumbled into Palestinian-controlled parts of three West Bank cities, Nablus, Jenin and Ramallah.

Sharon threatened even tougher action in response to the assassination of ultranationalist Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi by gunmen from the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"The murder . . . crossed the red line and created a new situation which requires a change in the pattern of action by the Army and security forces," a statement issued by Sharon's office quoted him as saying.

Sharon repeated his ultimatum to Arafat to arrest Zeevi's assassins and to hand them over to Israel.

"If the Palestinian Authority does not meet these conditions, Israel will view the Authority as supporting and hosting terrorism and act toward it in accordance with international guidelines," Sharon said, echoing remarks made by an Israeli spokesperson on Wednesday.

It was a clear threat from Sharon that Israel could attack the Authority much in the same way the United States has struck at Afghanistan's Taliban, whom Washington accuses of harboring Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington. *Reuters*

Australia forces boatload of asylum seekers back to sea

SYDNEY—Australia has turned away a boatload of illegal immigrants, successfully forcing it back into international waters for the first time in another hardening of its stand against people-smuggling.

Prime Minister John Howard said Friday the boat was escorted outside the territorial limit on Thursday and it headed back to Indonesia of its own accord after its crew was warned of the penalties under new anti-people smuggling laws.

"For the first time, it represents, on my advice, a successful return of a vessel," Howard told reporters in Brisbane on the campaign trail for the Nov. 10 election in which illegal immigration is a major issue.

The Indonesian-registered boat, carrying about 200 Middle Eastern asylum seekers, was forced out to sea by a naval boarding party after it reached the Australian territory of Ashmore Reef off the northwest coast.

The boarding party, from the frigate Warramunga, warned the crew members they faced minimum five-year jail sentences under Austalia's new anti-people smuggling laws.

Howard, well ahead in the polls because of his hardline stand against people-smuggling, said Canberra had legal advice it was within its rights to force the boat back to sea under new border control laws and under international law.

The Indonesian government had been told via a third-party note of the move.

Canberra toughened its border protection laws empowering it to turn away asylum seekers after denying the Norwegian freighter Tampa permission to land with 433 boatpeople rescued from the Indian Ocean on Aug. 26.

Since then, all boats carrying asylum seekers have been refused authority to land on Australian territory, but all have been sent to the Pacific island state of Nauru or elsewhere to have their claims processed.

Howard said the latest group of asylum seekers, including a woman who gave birth to a baby just before entering Australian territorial waters, were given humanitarian aid before being sent on their way.

He confirmed the Indonesian crew was warned about penalties for people-smuggling, and said there was no violence or illegal behavior when the boarding party landed. *AFP*

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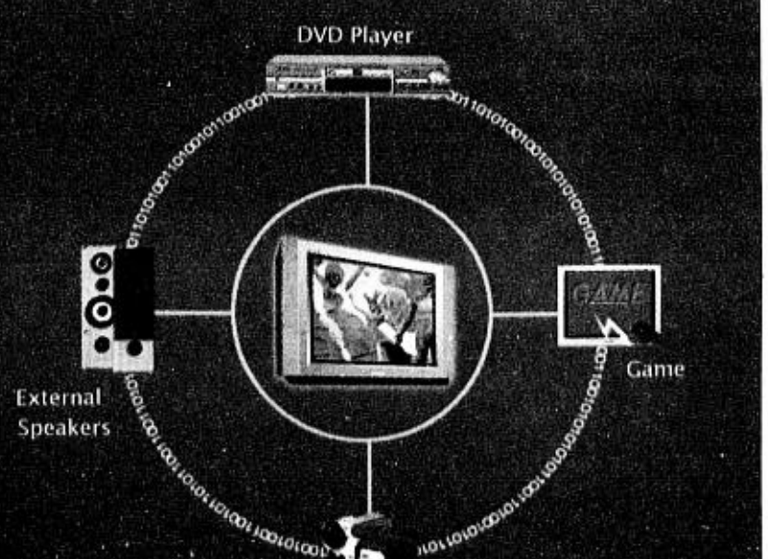

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Asia moves to protect children from sexual exploitation

BANGKOK—Asian governments Thursday signed up to an action plan against child sexual exploitation which for the first time commits them to deadlines to protect some one million children in the region's sex trade.

Unicef's regional child protection adviser Margie de Monchy applauded the move made at the end of a three-day UN conference in the Thai capital attended by some 200 child-protection experts from government and civil society groups.

"By agreeing to time-bound commitments for the first time, governments have moved one step further toward action on critical initiatives in this region," she said in a statement.

"The action plan . . . also recognizes that child sexual exploitation affects not only developing countries, but developed countries as well and that no country is untouched by this problem."

The meeting, organized by Unicef, ESCAP and child rights campaigners ECPAT, was held ahead of the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children which will convene in Yokohama, Japan in December.

Child abuse

The Oct. 16-18 gathering examined efforts that have been made in combating child abuse since the first world congress in Stockholm in 1996, and shared regional 'best practices' designed to prevent abuse.

Nanda Krairiksh from UN-ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said it was vital that, five years after Stockholm, measures to combat abuse were closely monitored to ensure they were effective.

"Many countries of the Asia-Pacific region have been making pro-gress combating the sexual exploitation of children. However, the record has been uneven and monitoring mechanisms to measure both progress and lack of action are necessary," she said.

"To move forward effectively, we need to take stock of the past."

The new agreement puts a deadline on resolutions already outlined in the Stockholm declaration, which many countries had since ignored.

They include appointing a national organization to deal with the issue, the drafting of action plans for each country, and individual resolutions on cross-border trafficking of children, which must now all be completed by 2004.

Poverty

At a press conference Wednesday, workers in the front line of the battle against child trafficking and exploitation said that while the face of the problem was shifting, poverty continued to underly the grim trade.

"The patterns are changing a lot. Children are not so much going straight to the brothels any more, but many are forced into non-consensual marriage or may be being trafficked into domestic work," said Unicef's Nwe Nwe Aye.

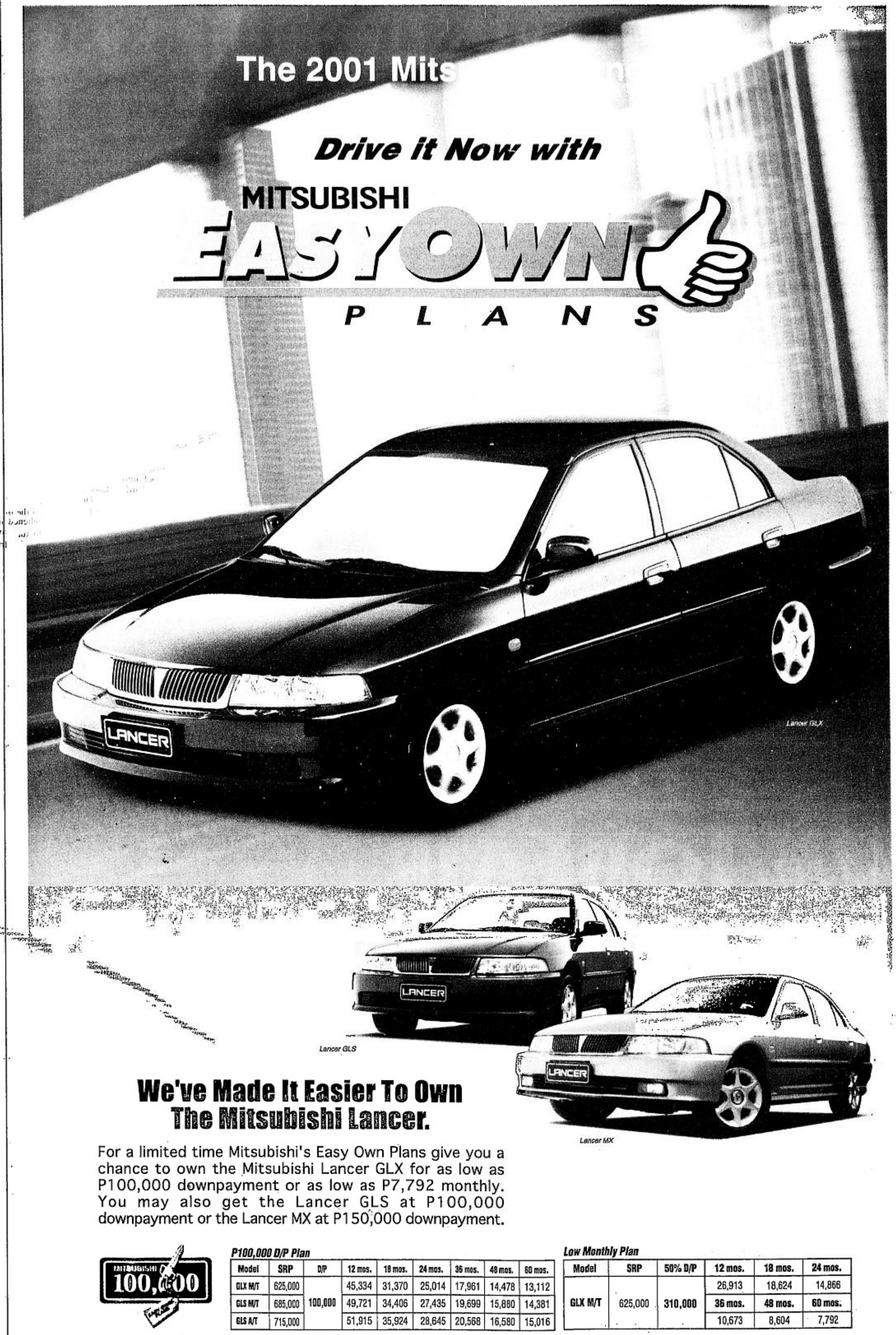
Many girls lured to the region's capitals in search of work were abused and harassed by landlords, employers and co-workers once they arrived, she said.

"Traffickers are not always strangers—they are friends, or seen as friends, people who bring money to their families," she said. "These are the kinds of complexities we must understand very well."

Somaly Man, a grass-roots worker from Cambodia, said that in many cases young girls were sold off in "marriage" to foreigners.

"Taiwanese men are married to two, three, four, 20 girls who they take out of Cambodia," she said.

"But the problem is not just caused by the male clients, it's coming from the poverty and living conditions in the family." *AFP*



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Magazine mail stir anthrax scare

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau
AND ANTHONY S. ALLADA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Unsolicited mail from The Economist, a weekly business magazine, have alarmed many Ilonggos here, causing the regional health office to declare nine suspected anthrax cases after the addressees complained last Wednesday.

Fabiolita Ferraris, regional director of the Philippine Postal Corp. in Western Visayas, said The Economist letters, with subscription return cards of the magazine, have whipped up an anthrax scare even as there were no signs that they contain anthrax powder.

The invitation to subscribe to The Economist comes with a list of eight world leaders, among them George Bush, Nelson Mandela and Lee Kuan Yew. The addressee's name comes last.

A number of the unsolicited mail, that reached many government offices and some houses in middle-class subdivisions here, ended up wrapped in plastic bags and delivered to the laboratory of the Department of Health for tests for possible anthrax contamination. One mail came from Antique province.

Dr. Glenn Alonsabe, epidemiologist at the regional health office of the Department of Health (DoH), said he received nine sealed plastic bags containing the controversial mail last Wednesday. He was awaiting orders from the DoH office in Manila on what to do with them.

Rey Araulo, a postal employee, said that mailbags from Manila yielded scores of The Economist mail. "We opened one envelope and there was only a subscription return card in it. Not one of us got sick," he said.

The scare took place at a time when health and animal disease officials have asked Ilonggos not to be alarmed in the wake of anthrax cases reported in the United States as there are more dreaded rainy-day diseases to worry about like dengue, diarrhea and cholera.

Anthrax, an infectious disease caused by the bacteria "Bacillus anthracis," is often associated with infected animals, among them cows, goats, carabaos and sheep. The disease could be transmitted through contact with tissues and hides of infected animals or their products, inhalation of spores and ingestion of contaminated and raw or half-cooked meat.

Alonsabe said Western Visayas is not among the areas that are likely to have anthrax attacks because it has no huge cattle ranches and herds.

He also allayed fears that local hospitals would have difficulty dealing with anthrax cases. "We can cure cutaneous anthrax by antibiotics like amoxicillin, penicillin and erythromycin. The effect of cutaneous is like *bakokang*, the skin lesions we're familiar with," said Alonsabe.

Ferraris said post offices in Western Visayas were alerted since last month for guns, explosives and drugs sent through mail. There is no advisory for anthrax laced-mail however. The regional postal office handles some 100,000 letters and packages every month, half of which come from abroad.

In Davao City, the regional office of the Department of Health is already having trouble with its official private mail carrier because of the reported biological attack involving the deadly anthrax.

This after the health department here admitted that it could still not determine whether or not the 13 letters it has to send to its Manila office contain the dreaded anthrax virus.

Salvador Estrera, DoH assistant regional director, said his office has already tried to send the letters to their head office in Manila but the mail carrier, Libcap, allegedly refused to bring them and even demanded that the letters be opened.

"Libcap wants that before we send the letters to Manila, we should open them," Estrera said.

"But it is not possible since it will only be in Manila where we can determine if they (letters) are positive for anthrax," Estrera said.

Estrera said what they can do now is to gather more letters and immediately inform the Manila office to get the letters through private plane.

The DoH regional office received at least five suspicious-looking letters believed to contain the deadly bacteria sent from Singapore by a publication company.

Four of the recipients endorsed the letters to the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit, while one was brought to a police station here. The two police units later turned them over to the DoH.

According to Estrera, the letters started coming Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. Judith Tapiador, chief of the Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Office, said the recipients include the United Coconut Planters Bank and Skycable.

But the letters appeared to be a promotional gimmick of The Economist, a Singapore-based magazine, Estrera said.

NIGHTCLUB PRIVILEGES

BI, customs men linked to drugs

BY DEBRA JANE V. MAGALLON
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Eight immigration and customs officials assigned at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport were found to have received "discount cards" which entitled them to free entrance and discounted drinks at some of the nightclubs owned by suspected drug lords Peter and Wellington Lim.

Copies of the so-called discount cards were submitted by Bernard Liu, one of the two witnesses who earlier tagged the Lim brothers as drug lords, during yesterday's inquiry by the House committee on dangerous drugs.

Among the bearers of these cards were C.P. Servillas, Rico Pedrealba, Nelson Gallentes, Maj. Benhur Mongao, Rene Abrea and Sammy Fernandez from the Bureau of Immigration and Robert Ecleo, a customs officer assigned to the MCIA.

These officers could not be reached for comment as of late yesterday afternoon.

The discount cards were signed by Peter Lim which bear different dates from the year 1993 to 1994 and were consumable at Cities, Bigwig and Thunderdome, the nightclubs owned by the Lims.

Among the three, Cities and Bigwig had already closed. Thunderdome, a noted girlie bar along F. Ramos Street, is still operating together with Infinity KTV Bar on Gorordo Extension and Volvo (formerly Bigwig), also on F. Ramos Street.

Infinity was the same club that was raided two nights ago by police officials after some guest relations officers (GROs) were caught in sex acts with two police assets who posed as clients.

Committee chair Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco has ordered the search for the records of customs and immigration officials assigned at MCIA after Liu claimed in his earlier testimony before the committee that drugs they shipped from Hong Kong passed through the Cebu airport with ease.

Cuenco wanted to find out if these airport officials were protecting the Lim brothers in their alleged illegal trade.

Liu yesterday said there could be more immigration and customs officials who have links with the Lim brothers since he was only able to secure one set of file which identified the eight officers as having received the discount cards from Peter Lim.

Meanwhile, inconsistencies were noted between the testimony and affidavit of Ananias Dy, the former bodyguard of Peter Lim and the other witnesses who accused the Lim brothers of drug trafficking.

Dy earlier told the committee that he once escorted a container van shipment bound for Manila where a cache of shabu was allegedly hidden among stalagmites. The van was shipped on board the MV Sugbo of WG&A and was later seized by the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau in Manila.

Dy, in his affidavit, said that this happened during the late 1980s. However, in his testimony yesterday, he said the shipment happened during the early 1990s.

When Rep. Constantino Jaraula, deputy minority floor leader, asked him why the year he stated in his affidavit and in his testimony were different, Dy explained that it was the mistake of the National Bureau of Investigation agent who took his sworn statement.

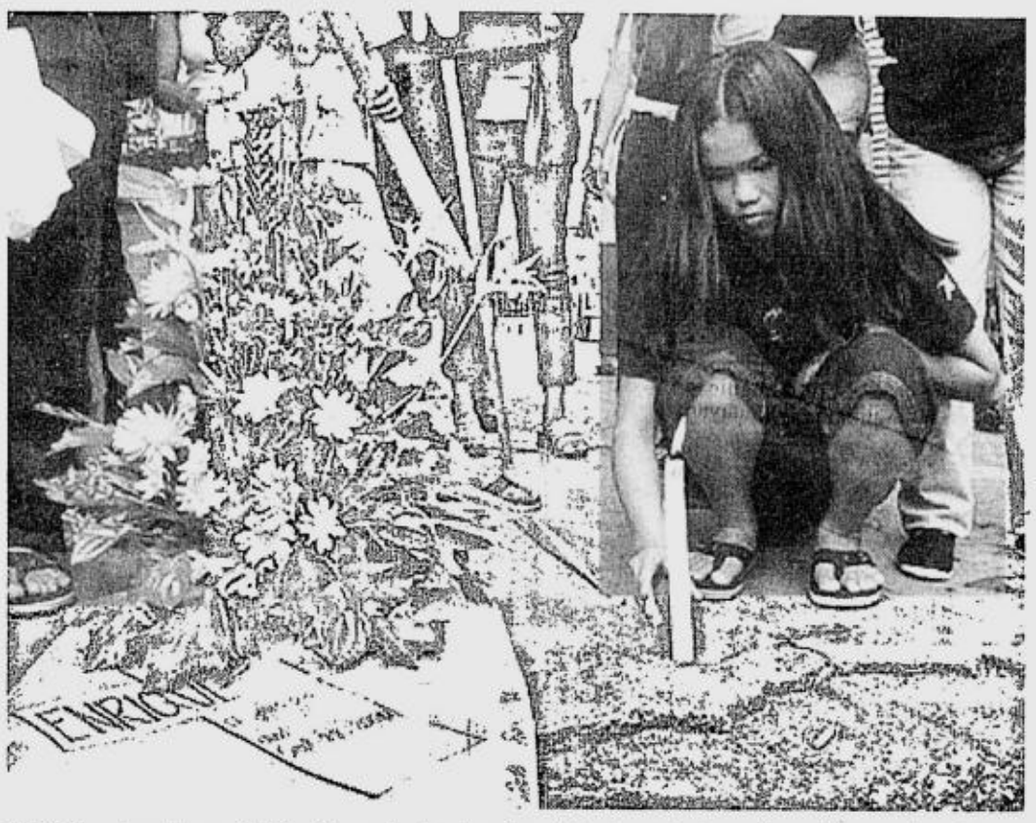
Also, Dy's birth date in his affidavit was mistakenly entered. In it, the date was July 14, 1957 but he corrected it to July 14, 1947. It would still be wrong since Dy declared his age as 52 when he took the oath yesterday. Later, he changed his age to 55.

When Jaraula asked again about the date of the shipment, Dy said he could not recall the exact date but he said it happened in the early 1990s.

But Jaraula said that if that incident happened between 1990 to 1995, there was still no WG&A shipping line since the merger of the three giant shipping lines William, Gothong and Aboitiz happened only in 1997.

Dy again changed the date and said that it happened between 1996 to 1998. He even said he was sure that it was a WG&A vessel as a certain Boy Que, an employee of WG&A, received the container van at the port.

Dy also said that what he saw loaded in the van was shabu and that he was sure about the authenticity of the substance as he had seen shabu several times from the shabu-using dancers at the Lim-owned nightclubs where he used to work.



BEING a homeless child in Davao is deadly. Symbols of protests such as this mock wake on the city streets are coming up the surface after the killings of street children by still unidentified gunmen. RYAN LIM

Rally vs killing of kids greeted by 3 more deaths

DAVAO CITY—October has become the "Month of Mourning" instead of the Month for Children, according to non-government organizations here.

A peace rally on Thursday afternoon by militant and civil society groups for an awareness campaign on the killings of youths here was marred by violence when gunmen on board motorcycles claimed three more young lives here.

Ariel Balufinos, advocacy officer of the Kabiba Alliance for Children's Concerns, said the killing of minors was a "mockery of our activity for peace" especially in the month of October, dubbed by the city government as Children's Month.

"We are really angry," Balufinos said. "It's almost like the killings were staged in time for our march-rally."

About 300 people, mostly youths wearing black shirts, and NGOs participated in Thursday's activity. They offered flowers, candles and prayers in the areas where minors were gunned down since 1995.

They also offered flowers to suspected snatchers Sammy Jagonos and Wiseley Castrudes, both 17 years old, who were shot to death Thursday afternoon.

Tambayan Center program coordinator Pilgrim Gaso-Gausa said the march-rally was to "celebrate and grieve" the killings that had happened this month.

"The wearing of black is to grieve both the death of the minors and the month of October, which has become a month of mourning," Gausa said.

She said October has become a symbol for the death of the children's rights.

"Killing the children is the worst form of nonfulfillment of children's rights, and what's worse is that Davao society is quick to justify the death of the children, branding them as a scourge to society," Gausa added.

Alvin Luque, vice president for Mindanao of the party-list group Bayan Muna, said the killing of the two minors in broad daylight has "virtually rendered the justice system of the city inutile."

Luque said the killings are "a condemnable act of those who claimed that they are for justice when they are just criminals."

Luque said the timing of the killings when groups are on a march-rally is very suspicious.

"This could be a shadowy plan in answer to our march-rally," Luque said.

On Wednesday night, Felcris Serojales, 19, was gunned down at the public market in Toril District.

Serojales had been arrested for marijuana possession sometime in 1998.

Meanwhile, City Councilor Jimmy Dureza, chair of the council's Committee on Peace and Public Safety, urged Davao City Police Office director, Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, to come up with a report to assure that the killings could be stopped.

"We cannot continue allowing this thing to happen," Dureza said. "This has become very alarming already."

He said that while the private sector has exerted all efforts to boost the city's tourism industry, the police appeared not to be doing anything to solve the killings.

"No matter how evil these victims are, the killers have no right to take their lives," Dureza said. "It seems we are now going back to the law of the jungle."

The local police should show performance, Dureza said, since city hall has allocated P135.3 million for the city's peace and order program.
Joel Escovilla and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Execs breathe new life to Clark Expo

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The controversial Philippine centennial centerpiece project Expo Pilipino is scheduled to reopen on Feb. 14 under a new name and as an educational and family destination, a Clark Development Corp. official said.

Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president, said the P3.5-billion theme park, which was ordered closed by the Estrada administration in June 1999, would feature musical concerts, theater performances, display and sales of Philippine products, sports and games, family-oriented events and educational exhibits.

Angeles said negotiations with the First Clark Centennial Corp. and its partner AsiaKonstrukt for the viable reuse of the 60-hectare park are reaching their final stages.

The CDC has also begun negotiations with investors whom Angeles did not yet identify.

He said Expo Pilipino's new name would be determined through a contest, which will be opened to students.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Luzon and Visayas. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/20/01

300 protesters rally in Isabela to stop field tests of GMOs

ILAGAN, Isabela—About 300 Church leaders, militant group members and farmers in Isabela staged a lightning rally on Wednesday to assail the agricultural firm Monsanto over the continued field testing of the genetically modified Bt-corn (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) in the province.

The protesters massed in front of the marketing office of Monsanto in Cauayan City and staged a noise barrage to drum up opposition against the ongoing Bt-corn field tests.

They also called on authorities to stop plans to pursue future field trials of genetically modified organism (GMO)-laced crops in the province.

The protesters burned a giant *papier mache* bug, which they said represented Monsanto, during a program.

Policemen and village watchmen were sent to the scene but no untoward incident happened.

"The proponents of the field tests are ignoring public health and (the) safety of the people," said Fr. Gregorio Uanan, Anti-GMO Multi-Sectoral Alliance of Isabela (Agamais) spokesperson and Diocese of Ilagan chancellor.

Monsanto, the US multinational agricultural company, through its branch in the country, is conducting field trials of the Bt-corn in at least three villages in Isabela.

These are located in Alinguigan 2nd in Ilagan, Villaluna in Cauayan City and Carulay in Echague town.

But groups opposing the Bt-corn field tests assailed Monsanto officials for not waiting for a provincial board approval on the project.

Monsanto officials said they proceeded with the project after the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines issued them a permit. They said the NCBP permit was enough for the project to proceed smoothly.

In a public hearing here on Thursday, Dr. Arnold Estrada, Monsanto-Philippines product development manager, reiterated his statement the Bt-corn has undergone thorough testing for toxicity, nutritional values and feed values.

But his statement was strongly assailed by anti-GMO participants who went to the public hearing with anti-GMO placards and leaflets.

Ilagan councilors said they would not support future Bt-corn field trials in their town.

The council's stand was in support of Mayor Delfinito Albano's position to block future field tests in Ilagan.

Other proposed test sites for Bt-corn in Isabela are San Felipe in Ilagan; Diarao in Jones; Masaya Sur in San Agustin; Malamag West in Tumauini; Napaccu Pequeno in Reina Mercedes; Yeban Sur in Benito Soliven; and Garita in Cabagan. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Opec approves ₱4.2M in projects in Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries approved the release of some P4.2 million to fund at least seven projects in different towns of Cotabato province.

"Opec's contribution to the North Cotabato development is of historic scope and its impact will be long and widely," Francis Mancilla, promotions officer of the Special Zone of Peace and Development (Szopad) told radio station dxND here.

Mancilla said the fund from the group is considered one of the largest investment aimed at developing the lives of residents of the province through infrastructure.

The beneficiaries of the P4.2 million fund are Sitio Pisan in Kabacan that got a warehouse and a solar drier worth P460,716.

In Sitio Langawan in Barangay Kulambog, Pikit for the construction of a warehouse and two solar driers amounting to P550,997.

A three-classroom school building with deep well worth P1 million and a barangay health station were built for Malngao in Midsayap town worth P485,507.

Also a warehouse and two solar driers for Tinutulan in Pikit worth P562,226.

A two-classroom school building for Poblacion, Carmen worth P629,767 and a barangay health station building for North Manuangan, Pigcawayan worth P460,619.

Mancilla said several screenings were conducted before a final decision as to who would become beneficiaries was reached.

"The committee from Szopad, Opec, Department of Budget and Management and representatives from the private sectors selected these stakeholders," he said.

He said other areas are also being eyed for implementation of similar projects under the same funding agency. *Rosa May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

A seminarian's will to overcome

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
Iloilo City

WOULD you believe, Gerry just made a three-point shot in our basketball game?" said one of the students of the Iloilo Baptist Seminary after a game in the covered court beside the chapel at No. 18 Lopez Jaena St., Jaro District.

Making a three-point shot is no big deal if you could move your hands about and you could run unhampered with good balance. But it so happens that seminary student Gerry Ortigas has his arms stuck to non-existent armpits a little above the elbows' level, which are in turn connected to the barest resemblance of shoulders.

The toes in his right and left feet are also stuck together. Also, the fingers of his right hand are not well defined while his left hand is smaller and has fingers that look like stubs.

Such is 21-year-old Gerry's physical shortcomings that he needs other people to put on his shirt for him and give him a bath.

When someone calls him, Gerry cannot turn his head but has to move his whole body to face the person and when he speaks, it is in wheezes and grunts though the words are understandable. His face also cannot show his emotions.

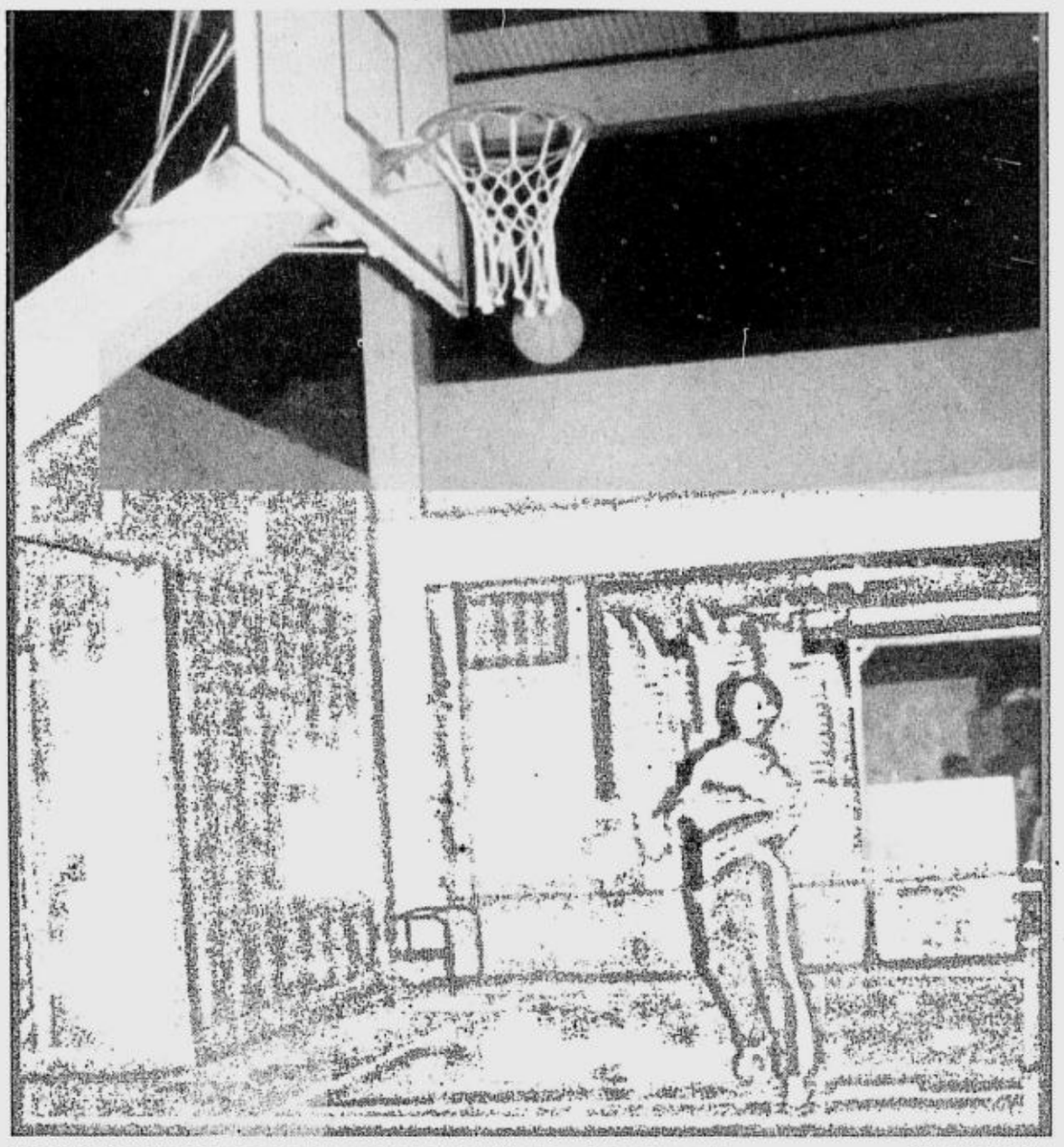
Next year, Gerry will be graduating with a degree in Pastoral Theology—a four-year course at the Iloilo Baptist Seminary run by Pastor Richard Martin, an American missionary who founded the Iloilo Baptist Church 23 years ago.

"Gerry is not behind in academics. He's got a good mind, he's smart, and very funny," said Pastor Martin.

Since seminary students are assigned to ministries of spreading the gospel, Gerry was assigned to Bible classes for children "in communities just about everywhere."

Pastor Martin said there are about 600 classes in Iloilo being held on Saturdays for 45 minutes, taught by seminary students who are also called Bible students.

Gerry fascinates children not only with his strange appearance but also with the way he delivers his preaching. Sundays find him bringing kids to attend Sunday School at Iloilo Baptist Church or cleaning up the house of his sister Gilda Bargo, a pastor's wife who lives in the church compound.



GERRY's favorite sport, basketball, has tested his willingness to beat the odds. JONATHAN GUERRA

In God's grace

"I plan to be a pioneering pastor in Barrio Bulay, Janiuay (a town in Iloilo) and I am willing to go through the pains of a typical pastor," Gerry told this correspondent in Hiligaynon.

His sister Gilda says that to be a pioneering pastor means hard work—"starting a church, constructing your own church building, looking and caring for new church members and a lot of other things besides."

Gerry was moved to become a pastor despite his physical shortcomings during a church conference when the speaker, a pastor, raised his worn-out shoes and said, "Who will fit into my shoes when I'm gone?"

At the opening of the school year in 1998, Gerry enrolled himself at the seminary which charges no tuition and gives free board and lodging in return for the students' commitment to engage in pastoral work after getting a degree.

Gerry's determination to become a pastor was also borne out of gratitude to God for keeping him alive and well when death cast its shadows on him.

Thus, Gerry chose his life verse found in Romans 8:28: "And we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

"Gerry was born so ugly, I did not want to look at him. He came out of our mother the size of a one-liter soft drink bottle," said Gilda, second to the eldest of Gerry's eight siblings.

When Gerry was two weeks old, Gilda said the doctors wanted to operate on his armpits, hands, toes and tongue.

"Gerry cried a torrent of tears so the doctor said it is better to leave him as he is because he might die during the operation. He was so small and they pitied him," said Gerry's sister.

Gilda could not remember the medical term to define Gerry's physical appearance. She theorized that Gerry's looks might have been the result of their mother's enjoyment at the sight of tiny dwarfs made of cement that dotted the grounds of the Janiuay Pilot Elementary School in their Iloilo hometown.

'I let them be'

As an adult, Gerry now stands 4 feet and 10 inches and weighs 35 lbs.

Gerry finished high school at the Janiuay Polytechnic College.

"When other people make fun of me or look at me curiously, I let them be. I am used to it," said Gerry.

He says the best thing that Pastor Martin's Bible School of 400 students has taught him is that it trained him "to stand in front to deliver God's message without shame."

Enrico Millones, a seminary student and one of Gerry's closest friends said, "Gerry is close to God. His faith lies only in Christ."

That applies even when Gerry plays the native game, Sepak Takraw. One wonders where he gets the strength to give that purposeful kick that sends the ball flying through the edges of the net.

Once, Gerry was invited to eat lunch at a church member's house after doing some carpentry work. He hesitated to eat at first but hunger got the better of him. Since his hands could not move to reach the table or hold utensils, he moved his head and torso to face the plate and "sipped" the rice and viand with his mouth. That is his normal way of eating.

He then looked at the surprised and sympathetic people around him. The smile in his eyes was accompanied with sounds. That, said his companion, means, "Gerry wants people to know he likes the food and he is very happy."

DEAL

ECHOES FROM LEYTE

Loly Perez Isiderio

LIKE the rest of the country, we in Leyte keep our sights focused on the national scene. We relate to what we hear, see on TV, or read in broad sheets depending on how they affect us. It is understandable that those of us who have relatives in the United States feel very concerned.

This war without borders is escalating into something rather scary. I must admit, though, that the young do not seem much affected by the anthrax scare. Maybe the young can see more clearly than the elderly who have grown old with their fears.

* * *

Well, today, anyone from Leyte would find some items in the INQUIRER (Tuesday, Oct. 16, pp. 1 & 6) quite interesting. One is the Department of Tourism's continued promotion of the Philippines as an alternative tourist destination.

But we are upset because after the preparations for the Oct. 20 Leyte landing commemoration, we hear that some 500 US World War II veterans (of World War II) and their families and Japanese tourists cancelled their trip to Leyte due to a US advisory against travelling to the Philippines.

* * *

Another good news is the Department of Agriculture's announcement that it will release P2.55M for agri-fishery projects in 17 towns in Eastern Visayas, among them Tolosa, Palo, Barugo, Isabel, Alangalang, Carigara and San Miguel.

The program is expected to address the decline in rice production in these areas.

* * *

From the fourth congressional District of Leyte comes news that Ma. Victoria Locsin, who was proclaimed on June 15 as the winning congressional candidate over her lone rival, former Ormoc Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr., is still sitting as member of the House of Representatives. In the Comelec results, Codilla got 71,350 votes, with a plurality of 17,903 votes over Locsin. On Aug. 29, the Comelec en banc ordered the proclamation of Codilla, declared the proclamation of Locsin null and void and ordered her to vacate her position.

Codilla took his oath of office on Sept. 12. One thing I can be sure about is that no two House members can occupy one seat.

How much time would it take to resolve this?

* * *

Another piece of good news was the 8th Annual Symposium on Peace sponsored by the CAP Family of Companies at the Gen. Kangleon Conference Center (formerly the Price Mansion). There I got to listen to Moner Bajunaid who discussed Mindanao and its role in our quest for peace. The theme of the symposium is "Paths to National Healing and Reconciliation." Professor Bajunaid discussed what he called a New Deal for Mindanao, a Roadmap to Peace.

Professor Bajunaid told us that he was born in Mindanao and is a Filipino citizen. He has spent his life in this country except for the times when he was traveling abroad for studies or in connection with his work as a founding director of the Muslim Business Forum (MBF), a partner organization of the Mindanao Business Council.

The Roadmap to Peace, as envisioned by Professor Bajunaid, is summarized in the acronym DEAL. D is for Dialogue; E is for Education; A is for Accommodation; and L is for Love. He believes that if Christians and Muslims engage in dialogue they would realize that we are all created by one God and believe in the same principles of faith, unity and peace. He also feels that Mindanao, although long regarded as a land of promise and freedom, has been regarded, too, as a place to be feared and where the indigenous tribes and groups and the Muslims are "different."

Let me share this statement of Professor Bajunaid taken from his article "A Plea for Dialogue" published in Newsweek on Oct. 10, 2001: "It is sad that two great religions are being pitted against each other. We all belong to a family of nations. Let us talk and listen to each other."

Cebu drug suspect turns battle-ready

BY CONNIE E. FERNANDEZ
Cebu City

CHINESE-Filipino businessman Peter Lim is in a fighting mood.

He no longer intends to ignore charges that he is "the drug lord" of Cebu, like what he did in 1997 when these allegations first cropped up.

Lim, 55, said he kept silent in 1997 because "my conscience is clear. I thought that in the end, the truth would always prevail."

But things did not turn out as he expected. "I was abused so much by some members of the media. This is too much already. We cannot just keep silent anymore."

He said he has been receiving death threats since he was implicated anew in illegal drugs. His business has been affected.

He fears for the safety of his and his family. He has asked his three children, all in their 20s, to avoid going out.

The Lim family is also afraid that police might plant evidence against him and his brother, Willy, 53, so they would be arrested.

They are also worried that the health of his 75-year-old mother, who is a diabetic, might be affected because of the allegations hurled against him.

"(Cebu City Rep. Antonio) Cuenco does not know what he has done to us. It is very unfair and he is doing these things without verifying the facts first," he lamented.

Dossier

It was Cuenco who identified Peter Lim in 1997 as among the 245 personalities allegedly involved in illegal drugs.

During a congressional inquiry on Aug. 9, 1997, Cuenco presented a dossier of the Narcotics Command, linking Peter to the international drug syndicates Magnificent 7 and the 14-K Gang.

Peter did not attend the hearing. He sent a note, explaining he feared for his life after receiving death threats. He also denied any involvement in the drug trade.

However, no charges were filed against Peter Lim as police failed to supply evidence of his alleged illegal drug activities. His name was eventually removed from the government watch list.

Four years later, Peter is back in the limelight. On Oct. 13, two of his former aides tagged him as "the drug lord" of Cebu during a hearing of the House committee on dangerous drugs chaired by Cuenco.

PETER and Willie Lim at a court in Cebu. TONY DESPOJO

Ananias Dy, 45, Peter's bodyguard for 21 years, and Bernard Liu, former manager of the Love City nightclub run by Willy, appeared before Cuenco's committee and revealed the alleged illegal drug activities of the Lim brothers.

Liu said he had been involved in packing and transporting shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) from Hong Kong to Cebu.

He also claimed he accompanied Willy to Hong Kong at least three times between 1989 to 1996, during which they got the supply of shabu that were brought directly to Cebu via the Cebu-Mactan International Airport. In one instance, he said, they transported some 10 kilos of shabu to Cebu.

He claimed that they got through the Hong Kong and Cebu international airports with ease and without their baggage getting checked because the Lim brothers knew key people in these airports.

Blackmail

The Lim brothers, in the first ever media interview they granted early this week, maintained that Dy and Liu were nothing but former employees trying to get back at them. They said the two were trying to "blackmail" them after they lost a labor case they filed before the National Labor Relations Commission.

"They filed illegal dismissal charges against us. They lost and they want to get back at us," Peter claimed.

This even as Dy and Liu insisted during the committee hearing that their having been dismissed from the Lim brothers' employ had nothing to do with the veracity of their testimony before the committee.

For Peter Lim, however, they had to be judged by evidence and not by the words of his former aides.

Peter claimed that he and his family have been living an "abnormal life" since he was first linked to drug trafficking in 1997.

The "drug lord" tag, he said, continues to stick to him. He said his competitors have also started taking advantage of the adverse publicity against him.

Peter said he is having a hard time getting suppliers of heavy equipment because his competitors are telling their Japanese suppliers not to deal with him because he is a drug lord.

His sales are also affected because his competitors are telling prospective clients not to go to his stores "*basi videohan mo sa mga* authorities (because anti-drug agents might take a videotape of you)."

Peter operates the family-owned Hilton Heavy Equipment, a leading supplier of heavy equipment in Cebu. Willy runs several nightclubs and a posh karaoke bar.

(Only the other night, a Cebu City police team raided the Infinity KTV Bar, the high-end karaoke bar operated by Willy Lim, on allegations that the bar was also a prostitution den. At least two women were arrested after they engaged in sex with two police assets who posed as bar clients inside one of the establishment's karaoke rooms. Police had insisted that the raid had nothing to do with the illegal drug trade charges leveled against the Lim brothers).

Like any other businessmen, Willy said they are also saddled with bank loans. "If we were into illegal drugs, we would not have financial problems."

He lamented that people looked at his family as if they got rich from peddling illegal drugs. Not many knew, he said, that his family had to work their way to where they are right now.

Peter said there was a time when his parents were prepared to leave Willy, Peter, his brother and only sister to the care of their relatives after their father's Luck Shoe Palace on Magallanes went bankrupt.

But their mother refused, said Willy. Instead, she bought cloth, sewed them into ready-to-wear clothes and sold them.

Willy said this sustained the family until her mother had enough money to put up a gift shop along P. Gullas Street. By the time the building's owners told their mother to move out, their father had already put up Hilton Auto Center on Natalio Bacalso Street in 1971, specializing in Volkswagen, he said.

Nightmare

Hilton Heavy Equipment was later put up on Escario Street. It imports engines and spare parts of Toyota Hi-lux. This started the family business.

Being the eldest among three brothers, Peter used to help his father run the store on Escario Street. He took over the running of the company after he graduated from college.

"This family corporation (Hilton) was started by our father about 30 years ago. We helped build this business and some people will just destroy it by falsely accusing us," Peter said in Cebuano.

Now that the "nightmare" is back, Peter is asking authorities not to resort to "extra legal means" like planting evidence against him so they could make him their trophy in their accomplishment report.

He is also seeking protection from authorities amid the death threats that he said he has been receiving from unidentified callers.

"Maybe the authorities will be kind enough to give us protection just like they have given protection to (Dy and Liu)," Peter said. "They should give us protection because of what they have done to us, our lives are in danger."

Willy said that by providing them security, police will get a bonus—cops will get to monitor their activities.

Bush, Jiang: Partners in war vs terror

Margarine dragon, tight security greet Bush in Shanghai

SHANGHAI—A 100-pound sculpted margarine dragon greeted US President W. Bush when he arrived here Thursday for the leaders' summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

And to get workers of the exclusive Portman Ritz-Carlton hotel into the proper mood for the former Texas governor's visit, management served pork spare ribs, fried chicken and hot dogs in the employee dining room.

Air Force One touched down at Pudong International Airport in a landing broadcast on international television. Notoriously meticulous and security-conscious, Chinese officials had virtually sealed off Shanghai, well aware that they were hosting the first major international event since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America.

But their tight precautions did not affect the lavish welcome afforded Bush and his entourage at the hotel, which had been preparing for his three-day stay for a full year and had commissioned the intricately carved margarine sculpture to mark the event.

In addition, the hotel ordered a "floral centerpiece of grand proportions" made of 500 yellow roses to adorn the lobby, general manager Mark DeCocinis said in a statement.

He said hotel maids had been supplied with "quote notes"—with stately words from Bush and Chinese President Jiang Zemin—to place in the guestrooms.

Explaining the unusual menu and the appearance of Texas hot sauce in the hotel's gift shop, DeCocinis said: "We want our staff to feel a part of this visit and understand something about our very important guest."

But the popularity of hot dogs among hotel employees perhaps unaccustomed to US haute cuisine was difficult to gauge.

"I ate at home," said one. *AFP*

(From page A1)

formation by saying he sought a relationship that was "candid, constructive and cooperative."

On his first trip abroad since the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, Bush hailed China's willingness to cooperate on intelligence and help choke off the flow of funds to terrorist groups.

"President Jiang Zemin and the Chinese government have stood side by side with the American people as we fight this evil force," Bush said at the news conference. "There's no hesitation, there's no doubt that they will stand with the United States and our people during this terrible time."

Taiwan walkout

To smooth the way for the Apec summit, Beijing released several US-based scholars convicted of spying, ordered 30 Boeing airliners and resumed a human rights dialogue put on ice after US jets on a mission for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in May 1999.

But as the two former adversaries showed fresh unity, China's tense ties with Taiwan flared Friday, with the Taiwan delegation preparing to walk out in a row over the island's representation at the gathering.

Having been told he was not welcome, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian proposed sending a top aide, Li Yuan-zu, a former vice president.

But Beijing gave him the thumbs-down, too, demanding that Taipei send an economics-related minister instead, in line with past Apec practice.

As Taiwan waited vainly for an invitation to arrive, Chen lashed out at Beijing for a "total disregard of protocol."

"I believe Communist China has hurt the feelings of our people," Chen said, warning of a "negative impact on cross-Strait relations."

Taiwan's delegates already in Shanghai for pre-summit meetings will head for home on Friday and Saturday, said Vice Economic Affairs Minister Steve Chen.

The decision to walk out came a day after China's foreign minister humiliated Taiwan's economics minister, cutting him off at a ministerial news conference and saying the debate over the island's representation was a "waste of time."

Bush and Jiang discussed the issue of Taiwan, but only perfunctorily.

Jiang said the issue should be "properly handled," while Bush spoke of the need to "preserve regional stability."

Fastest growing economy

China had hoped the Apec gathering would showcase its skyscraper-studded model city and robust economy—the fastest growing in Asia—on the eve of the country's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Instead, terrorism has overshadowed the event, although Bush had said he was eager for Apec to forge ahead with its free trade agenda to get the global economy on track.

Apec represents almost half of world trade and 60 percent of global output. Its officials are pushing to start new trade talks at the WTO, two years after its disastrous failure in Seattle.

In the run-up to the meetings, China denied visas to visitors from Middle East countries. State television said China had stepped up checks for potentially deadly anthrax bacteria in mailrooms and at border crossings after a rash of cases in the United States.

Apec leaders who will meet this weekend plan to issue a statement condemning the Sept. 11 attacks as "murderous deeds."

But in an acknowledgment of the political sensitivities that the military action on Afghanistan are creating in the Muslim world, including Apec members Indonesia and Malaysia, no mention is expected of Bin Laden or the attempt to hunt him down. ***Reports from AP, Reuters***

Gloria to tell of RP war vs terrorism

(From page A1)

the US military campaign in Afghanistan.

US President George W. Bush arrived in Shanghai Thursday, two days ahead of the Oct. 20-21 summit, to meet with key Asia-Pacific leaders and to enlist support for the US-led military strikes in Afghanistan.

Ms Macapagal said she would reiterate her government's support for the US-led international coalition against terrorism.

As part of this support, "we shall demonstrate our ability to stamp out domestic terrorism within our shores," Ms Macapagal said.

Anti-money laundering law

"I shall report at the summit the achievements our government has won since Jan. 20, including the passage of the power restructuring and the new anti-money laundering bills, our broader inter-faith dialogues including peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, our gains against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist organization," she said.

"The Abu Sayyaf terrorists are on the defensive and our troops are giving them no rest," she added.

While supporting the US action, Ms Macapagal said she would "seek all forms of humanitarian assistance" for the Afghans and would urge "broader inter-faith dialogues to promote Christian and Muslim solidarity."

She said it was "most unfortunate there are those who propagate the view that the (US) bombing at Afghanistan is a conflict between the West and Islam."

"Our fervent and collective wish is that the end of Osama bin Laden and the downfall of the Taliban regime would end the scourge of terrorism. But our confidence is less than full," she said.

Ms Macapagal said world leaders were "conscious of the fact that the threat of terrorism may not only continue but may even intensify" with the war in Afghanistan.

She said she would also ask other leaders for more "development assistance" and to help the country secure its borders against terrorism, piracy, drug-pushing and commercial poaching.

"I shall present the view that mainstreaming trade into the wider development agenda of addressing poverty should be a central consideration to reaching a position as to what a new WTO (World Trade Organization) round should contain," she said.

The President arrived in Shanghai yesterday morning, accompanied by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and top government officials.

Bill Gates meets Gloria

In Shanghai, the President and Microsoft chair Bill Gates witnessed the signing of an agreement aimed at giving Filipinos a chance to monitor through computers the implementation of government programs that she promised in her first State of the Nation Address (Sona) last July.

Vicky Garchitorena, Presidential Management Staff head, and Microsoft Philippines Inc., signed the memorandum of agreement.

"Anybody can tap into the website and see what departments are doing and tell the President if this was actually done," Roxas said.

Garchitorena said Microsoft would provide government agencies with the software for the monitoring system.

The President and Gates did not issue statements during the signing of the MOA, but Malacañang officials said the two discussed the role of technology in improving the delivery of basic services to the people.

Microsoft also signed an agreement with the Clark Development Corp. to train people in writing computer programs.

Microsoft's third MOA was signed with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and the STI computer training school.

The MOA seeks to develop and promote the adoption of computer education or e-learning in the Philippines.

Witness . . .

(From page A1)

the President's husband. He said he twice informed the President about this special operation by Mr. Arroyo.

The first instance, he said, was when he told the President verbally about it when he saw her at the office of her husband.

The second time was when he filed his letter of resignation to the President on August 2.

Returned without comment

The letter, he said, was returned to him by Mr. Arroyo "without any comment" from the President.

Rivero reiterated his charges that Mr. Arroyo hatched the plan to use PCSO funds for an advertising campaign package aimed at boosting the chances of the four candidates in radio and television stations.

Rivero said the candidates who benefited from the PCSO funds were Senators Joker Arroyo and Juan Flavier, former senator Ernesto Herrera, and former Bulacan governor Roberto Pagdanganan.

He said that for Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) and Bombo Radyo alone, the total amount paid for the advertisement and payola for radio and TV commentators reached more than P13 million.

Reacting to the query of Sen. Panfilo Lacson on other instances wherein PCSO funds were used, Rivero said he was made to spy on the movements of Lacson at the height of the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

He said he also used PCSO money for the payola of reporters covering the impeachment trial, specifically those from radio and television networks.

Asked by the INQUIRER why he decided to turn his back on his former benefactor, Rivero replied, *"Paano ba naman, kasama nila ako, nilalaglag ako!*(I was part of the group, but they cut me off.)"

Rivero said he did not like the intrigues being circulated against him at the PCSO about his alleged irregular activities as consultant

Demanding commission.

He was apparently referring to allegations that he was demanding commissions from advertisements of the PCSO.

In the same hearing, PCSO chair Maria Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon said Rivero's contract with the PCSO was terminated after several individuals and sponsors executed affidavits saying he was demanding commissions from the advertisements of the PCSO.

She said there was nothing irregular in the use of PCSO funds. She also said that Rivero's story was politically motivated.

"Puro istorya lang eh (They're nothing but tales)," De Leon told reporters at the end of the hearing. "That may have been spun by Mr. Rivero himself. Maybe it would be good to look deeper into those stories of Mr. Rivero."

She promised to present the affidavits against Rivero once subpoenaed by the Senate committee.

"We will counter them based on our records, based on the performance of our office," De Leon said.

"I doubt if Mr. Rivero has any hard evidence on his allegations. As far as we know, we did not contribute to any campaign needs of any candidate in the last election," she added.

List of donations

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, on the other hand, asked De Leon to produce a "historical list" of all the donations and contributions made by the PCSO during elections from June 2000 to June 2001.

Honasan said the list was important to determine whether the PCSO had been violating its charter against the use of PCSO funds for political purposes.

Asked why the rush in the investigation when the referral to his committee was still being challenged by his peers, Angara said the investigation was in fact delayed for three weeks.

He said he was specifically interested in the use of public money for certain political figures and activities.

"The massive funding of partisan campaign is definitely not within the charter of the PCSO," Angara said.

He said the spirit of the fair election law was clear—to level the playing field in political campaigns. As such, the law prohibits the use of state money for election spending.

Angara also said he was not disturbed by the absence of the majority senators in the hearing and scheduled another hearing when Congress reopens in November.

Congress will go on a two-week recess starting Oct. 26.

Angara assured the majority senators and the public that the hearings would be fair and open. He said the claim of the majority senators that the hearing was "illegal" was "absurd."

"No legislature in the world has ever prevented a public hearing conducted after a proper referral," he said. "The plenary is not also used in deciding on committee-level hearings, especially after the proper referrals have been made."

Practice and tradition

Angara also said the practice and tradition in legislatures the world over give proper respect and courtesy to committee-level hearings.

He said that he was not worried about the possible rejection in the end of his committee report.

"There are senators in the majority who are mature and responsible enough," he said. "The committee will report out something that will be fair and just."

Sen. Blas Ople said he believed that the committee report would reach the plenary despite the refusal of some of his colleagues to attend the hearings.

But Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that if the opposition was serious in looking into PCSO irregularities, they should focus on misdeeds committed at the agency during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Tiglao said such irregularities were mentioned by Rivero in his June 14, 2001 letter to the President.

Ironically, the same letter was presented by Rivero in yesterday's opposition-dominated hearing in a bid to show that President Macapagal herself was aware of the alleged diversion of PCSO funds for the senatorial campaign.

Tiglao noted that Rivero said in his letter that the previous PCSO management under the Estrada administration had "collected huge commissions" for media advertising contracts.

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Ground troops move in

(From page A1)

but challenged them to come in.

"Fifteen or 20 troops will be able to do nothing," Shaheen said in Islamabad, the Pakistan capital. "If they want to send in soldiers, they should send in 100,000. Then it can be a fight between our soldiers and theirs. Now it is just a war against civilians."

Ignoring the Muslim holy day, US warplanes again struck Afghanistan dawn of Friday, dropping four bombs on Kabul, the capital, and attacking the Taliban stronghold in the southern city of Kandahar, witnesses said.

The eastern city of Jalalabad, one of several provinces where Bin Laden's al-Qaida network has outposts, was also attacked.

Taliban officials said that between 600 and 900 people were dead or missing. There was no independent confirmation of the toll, but witnesses speak of civilian deaths.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, however, dismissed talk of high civilian casualties.

'Get out of the way'

The United States deployed four slow-moving EC-130E "Commando Solo" psychological operations aircraft, broadcasting in local Afghan dialects the message that Afghans could expect to see US troops on the ground.

"Attention, people of Afghanistan, United States forces will be moving through your area," one message said, adding that the United States wished ordinary Afghans no harm.

"Please, for your own safety, stay off bridges and roadways, and do not interfere with our troops or military operations," said another.

GETTY IMAGES

REFUGEE camp set up a few years ago at a border town between Pakistan and Afghanistan now swells with the teeming numbers of Afghans displaced by the war on terrorism.

It added: "Try to find ways to ignore the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's requests for help and do not give them food or shelter."

The broadcasts also vowed to give no quarter to Taliban soldiers and al-Qaida supporters who did not surrender.

As early as Thursday in Washington, Rumsfeld served notice that ground troops would be joining the hunt for al-Qaida and Taliban leaders.

Warplanes "can't crawl around on the ground and find people," Rumsfeld told a news conference at the Pentagon. "You have to go and find them."

The kind of special units deployed in Afghanistan are normally used for clandestine work, including small-scale search-and-destroy missions.

On Friday Afghan opposition forces—a loose coalition made up mainly of minority ethnic Uzbeks and Tajiks—pressed their own ground offensive in northern Afghanistan, continuing a days-old battle for the strategic city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Control of Mazar-e-Sharif would let the opposition fighters consolidate their supply lines from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, assuring the flow of arms from those two countries.

"They say their morale is high, but it isn't," 30-year-old Abdul Ghafur, who defected four days ago, told reporters of the Taliban. "Fighters are running away to Pakistan or Iran, or joining" the Northern Alliance.

But the Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, denied the reports of defections and said morale among Taliban fighters was high.

"Until there is one Talib alive in Afghanistan, America cannot defeat us," he told reporters Thursday in the Pakistani border town of Chaman. "Our morale is high and we will never bow to unjust demands of any power."

13th day

Daylight brought a break in the 13th day of the US-led military assaults.

Families living near Taliban military sites in the city rushed to take advantage of the lull, moving belongings and children away from the likely targets of more strikes.

The attacks resumed at midday, with at least two bombs hitting.

On Thursday, at least five Kabul residents died, including four members of one family, when bombs came crashing through their roofs.

"I don't know what they have achieved, except to kill civilians," the Taliban Embassy's Shaheen said.

He said the strikes had destroyed Afghanistan's main airports in Kandahar, Kabul and Jalalabad, and damaged electrical installations.

The United States has expressed regret for any civilian casualties, saying it is trying to minimize unintended deaths.

But the Taliban insists that the air strikes are missing their presumed targets—Bin Laden and Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Taliban ambassador Abdul Salam Zaeef said Thursday that both men are still alive. He said he had met recently with Bin Laden, and "he is fine."

Grenade explosion

Taliban officials denied a report that US bombs had claimed their first victim among Bin Laden's close associates.

The London-based Islamic Observation Center said Thursday that Abu Baseer al-Masri, a veteran in Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, died in a US air strike on Jalalabad on Sunday.

Taliban officials confirmed Al-Masri's death, but said he was killed by a grenade that accidentally exploded in his hands, not by a US bomb, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

The AIP said Al-Masri, an Egyptian, died in a Jalalabad hospital on Saturday, two days after the grenade caused extensive arm and chest injuries. *Reports from Reuters, AP*

FBI ...

(From page A1)

Health Ministry official Javier Vilioso told the media Thursday. It was unclear who the recipient was.

The staff at the US Embassy in Fiji were being treated with precautionary antibiotics following the delivery of a letter containing a "suspicious substance," the state department said.

And South Africa reported five new anthrax scares, one of them at a television channel, while German police investigated alerts and arrested several people suspected of sending hoax anthrax letters.

In Spain, police were searching for the perpetrators of some 30 false anthrax alarms.

FBI Director Robert Mueller said his agency would join the US Postal Service to post a $1-million bounty on unknown perpetrators who sent mail from US addresses laced with potentially deadly anthrax to TV news anchors, political leaders and journalists.

Mueller announced "a reward of up to $1 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for terrorist acts of mailing anthrax."

"The mailing of anthrax is a terrorist act. And we are pursuing it as a terrorist act," he said.

Mueller seemed to indicate his agency was no closer to finding the culprits, saying the FBI was not "in a position, at this point," to make any arrests or to lodge an indictment.

No clear link

Authorities have yet to establish a clear link between the anthrax mailings and the attacks on New York and Washington, believed to have killed about 5,000 people and blamed on Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden.

But President George W. Bush has said there may be a "possible" link to Bin Laden, the target of punishing US-led air strikes on his haven in Afghanistan. *(See related story on Page A9.)*

Attorney General John Ashcroft lashed out at those behind "grotesque" hoax anthrax mailings, which have fanned public concern and diverted law enforcement resources.

"People who use this time in our country as an opportunity to compound the concern of Americans through hoaxes will pay a serious price because we intend to prosecute these offenses to the fullest extent of the law," he warned.

"Individuals who threaten the use of biological toxin can receive up to a life in prison as a sentence," Ashcroft said.

Four people have already been charged with making hoax anthrax threats.

6th confirmed case

As Ridge tried to put the nation at ease, acting New Jersey Gov. Donald DiFrancesco said a postal worker in the state had contracted skin anthrax.

DiFrancesco told reporters that another postal worker was still being tested.

The pair worked in Hamilton Township, the site of a sorting office through which two anthrax-filled letters earlier sent to NBC anchor Tom Brokaw and to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle both passed.

Initial tests have shown that the strain of the bacterium found in a Florida publishing office where two workers were infected—one of whom died on Oct. 5—was the same as that sent to Brokaw, medical officials said.

The New Jersey infection is the sixth confirmed case of the sometimes-fatal bacteria in the United States, while 40 people have tested positive for exposure.

Another eight people were initially reported to have tested positive but their status later remained unclear.

CBS News, too

CBS News reported Thursday that a woman who works in the office of the channel's top anchor Dan Rather had contracted skin anthrax.

The woman, who handles incoming mail, contacted the city health department last week after a case of anthrax was diagnosed at NBC News and tests for the illness came back positive, New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said.

She was being treated with antibiotics and expected to make a full recovery.

Ridge said those exposed were just a few of the "thousands and thousands and thousands" of people tested.

As attention turned to preventing future exposures, US Postmaster General Jack Potter warned Americans to remain on high alert.

"My message to the American public is: Remain calm. Be vigilant. Be aware of what you get in the mail," he told reporters at Ridge's briefing, adding Americans would soon receive a postcard from his office explaining suspicious signs to look out for.

Senate returns to work

In Washington, a defiant US Senate went back to work, despite an anthrax scare which prompted the closure of the House of Representatives until Tuesday after 31 people were exposed to the bacteria in a letter addressed to Daschle.

"Those who have tried to create panic with anthrax letters . . . have failed. We are stronger than ever," said Rev. Lloyd Ogilvie, the Senate chaplain.

Report from AFP

UK experts red-faced over mad cow madcap

(From page A1)

cows instead of sheep, the government said Friday.

The admission by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) that the tests are faulty means that British consumers are no closer to knowing whether it is safe to eat lamb.

The discovery of mad cow disease, a brain-wasting disorder linked to the fatal variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob (CJD) disease in humans, prompted the mass slaughter of cows in Britain, and sparked fears about dangers to human life.

Scientists have expressed fears that the cattle illness, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), may have been passed from cows to sheep and its symptoms confused with a related sheep disease, scrapie.

Scrapie is not thought to be transmissible to humans.

The Independent newspaper said Friday that the error called into question the quality of some of the science on which Britain's anti-BSE strategy is based.

The government-funded Institute of Animal Health in Edinburgh, Scotland, had been conducting crucial tests for five years on what was believed to be sheep tissue.

Its interim results last month appeared to show that BSE had jumped the species barrier and infected sheep.

Ministers said at the time that Britain's 20 million sheep and 20 million lambs might have to be destroyed if found to have mad cow disease.

How it happened

Defra has already made a brief announcement, saying that there was a possibility the tested sheep material had been "contaminated" by cattle brains.

But spokesperson for the department Friday admitted that the tests had been carried out on cow brains and not sheep brains.

"As to how it happened, that is the question we are asking," the spokesperson said.

Urgent inquiries into how the mix-up happened have now been launched by both the government and the Edinburgh institute.

Professor Peter Smith, chair of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee which briefs the government, told the Daily Telegraph he was "amazed" by the mistake.

He added: "It is a fairly disastrous error. It is an amazing result that no one expected."

The director of the Edinburgh institute, Professor Chris Bostock, told the newspaper, which labeled the affair a "fiasco," that he was "flabbergasted, devastated."

The Daily Telegraph raised questions about how the government had handled the release of the information.

The affair awoke suspicions that the government was trying to "bury" unfavorable news, one influential politician told the paper.

Jo Moore, a government "spin doctor" or media adviser, caused an ongoing row in the British media over her comment on Sept. 11, about an hour after terrorist attacks in the United States, that it was a good time to "bury" bad news. *AFP*

US Embassy bombers draw life terms

(From page A1)

than the death penalty."

The jury declined to recommend the death penalty for the two prisoners convicted of the most serious charges, Mohamed and Saudi Mohamed Rashid Daoud al-Owhali, 24, for fear of turning them into martyrs.

Jordanian Mohamed Saddiq Odeh, 36, and American Wadih el-Hage, 41, were convicted of conspiracy charges which carried a maximum of life.

The judge ordered the four to pay $33 million in collective damages to the families of the victims. If any money could be recovered, the judge said a further $26.3 million should be paid to the US government.

'Victory over terrorism'

US Attorney General John Ashcroft immediately hailed the verdicts as a victory over terrorism and vowed to bring those suspects still at large to justice.

"Al-Qaida stands charged, tried, convicted and sentenced for terrorism," Ashcroft told reporters.

Bin Laden, wanted "dead or alive" by the United States for last month's attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania which killed nearly 5,400 people, was indicted for masterminding the bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Aug. 7, 1998, bombings killed 224 people, including 12 Americans, and wounded thousands.

Two of the convicted men, Jordanian Mohamed Saddiq Odeh and American Wadih el-Hage, exercised their right to address the court before sentencing but neither of them made any comments in support of Bin Laden.

The two-hour proceedings opened with heart-rending testimony from six family members of victims of the bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

"The carnage of Sept. 11 only exacerbated my memories. You have to apply the full extent of the law to send an unambiguous message to future terrorists," said Howard Cavaler, who lost his wife in the Nairobi blast.

"Let them wake up every morning knowing, your honor, that humanity is united in viewing them as cowardly infidels who are despised by all," Cavaler said.

No remorse

The two defendants who spoke during the hearing expressed no remorse.

Speaking in Arabic and aided by a translator, Mohamed Odeh launched into a confusing speech in which he described the missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan immediately after the embassy bombings as a form of justice. He said the United States was now trying the same crime twice.

Speaking in perfect English learned during 20 years in the United States, El-Hage, charged as Bin Laden's personal secretary, reiterated his line of defense throughout the trial that he worked in the legal part of al-Qaida and was opposed to violence.

"The bombings of '98 were extreme action, not in accordance with what I believe. Today my opinion is the same, even to what happened here last month. I did not participate in extreme actions," he said.

He railed against the "embargo on Iraqi Muslim people" and the US support of Israel, maintaining he was innocent and a devout Muslim. A naturalized US citizen, El-Hage was living in Arlington, Texas, with his wife April and their seven children at the time of the bombings.

But Patrick Fitzgerald, who was the lead prosecutor in the case and has since been named interim US Attorney General in Chicago, returned to rip into El-Hage's claims to be a dedicated family man and an American.

He said when El-Hage was called to testify in 1997 about Bin Laden's activities he lied instead of providing information that could have prevented embassy bombings.

"He had a choice and he chose to go with people who would kill," Fitzgerald said.

Sand also discounted El-Hage's comments, stating it was "not unusual for perpetrators of horrendous crimes to point to other events and other circumstances to try to deflect the enormity of their own acts."

"The law recognizes that terrorism that causes the death of innocent persons regardless of whether it is based on sincerely held but terribly misguided views . . . is one of the most serious crimes, threats to the society of any civilized nation," Sand said.

Two members of the jury panel, whose identities were kept secret, told reporters after the hearing they had decided to appear because of last month's attacks.

"We have to let them know we are not afraid of them," said one.

"They were in training for what they were planning for the World Trade Center," said the other. "On Sept. 11, I shook my head . . . I was mad at my government," the juror said. "Why weren't we better prepared?" *Reuters and AFP*

Priest's kidnap leader named

(From page A1)

City could provide details on the identities of the kidnappers, according to Col. Jet Belarmino, chief of the 51st Infantry Battalion.

Belarmino said Edgar Eronico, 19, a resident of Dimataling town, had spent some time with two of the kidnappers.

A suspect named Rex

He said Eronico, now in the custody of the 51st IB, was a friend of one of the suspects, a mestizo-looking man.

The student admitted that late last month he befriended the suspect, who introduced himself as Rex.

They were seen together in at least three occasions attending the evening Mass that Pierantoni, an assistant parish priest in Dimataling, had officiated.

Eronico said Rex spoke fluent Cebuano and that he knew him as an *agar-agar* (carageenan) trader.

Asked if the Pentagon group was indeed behind the Italian priest's kidnapping, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said "not necessarily but probably."

"You know, they have a large network. One group kidnaps and then (the victim is) deposited with another group that negotiates for the release. So, it's quite complicated. But the information that we have is (that it was done) by an MILF Lost Command," Reyes said in Camp Aguinaldo.

He admitted that the military was still determining where Pierantoni, a 44-year-old member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was being held.

Commander Ramsy

Cimatu said the group of Norhan Amil, alias Commander Ramsy, could have participated in the kidnapping of Pierantoni.

Ramsy is allied with Marohombsar, according to the Southern Command chief.

But Ramsy, in an interview through his mobile phone, told the INQUIRER that he had no hand in the abduction of the Italian missionary.

"I was in Cebu when the kidnapping occurred. So why am I being blamed for it?" he said.

Ramsy also denied calling Bishop Zacarias Jimenez of the Diocese of Pagadian City to offer help in recovering Pierantoni.

Earlier, Jimenez told the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. in Cotabato City that a certain Commander Ramsy had asked for a mobilization fund of P3,000 so he could secure the release of the priest.

But Ramsy told the INQUIRER he could not have phoned Jimenez because he did not know about the kidnapping until yesterday.

Not cheap

"And I'm not that cheap," Ramsy said of his alleged demand for a mobilization fund.

Ramsy raised the possibility that the Abu Sayyaf seized the priest and that the victim could already be in Basilan.

But Cimatu rejected Ramsy's theory that the priest was already in Basilan and that the Abu Sayyaf was keeping him.

"How could they bring him there when we have already tightened the security there?" the Southcom chief said.

Cimatu said it was possible that Ramsy did participate in the abduction and that his theories could actually be a diversionary tactic to mislead authorities.

He maintained that the kidnapped priest was either in Zamboanga del Sur or in Lanao del Sur.

Cimatu has issued three orders to the newly formed Task Force Giuseppe: Locate the kidnappers, rescue Pierantoni and inflict casualties on the suspects.

Kill all

"Inflict casualties or kill them all," Cimatu told members of the task force headed by Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, deputy commander of the 1st Infantry Division based in Zamboanga del Sur.

"We will do our best, but most of our troops are in Basilan and the remaining soldiers are thinly spread in the Zamboanga Peninsula," Atutubo said.

Another problem, he said, was the lack of seacraft to scour areas where the kidnappers could have brought the priest.

At least two brigade-sized contingents are part of Task Force Giuseppe.

Atutubo said the 101st Brigade would search the Dinas-Dimataling-San Pablo complex; the 102nd Brigade would search Malangas, Diplahan and Tungawan towns.

During the briefing, Atutubo and Col. Estrellito Romero, chief of the Army's 101st Infantry Brigade, said they had identified at least four coastal towns in Zamboanga del Sur and two in Lanao del Sur as possible areas where the kidnappers could be keeping the Italian missionary.

The military officers, however, urged the media to withhold the names of the towns.

Related to jihad?

In Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur, a military commander said Pierantoni's abduction could be related to calls for support for the Taliban militia in Afghanistan.

Romero said it was possible the abduction was an offshoot of the calls for jihad (holy war).

But Cimatu dismissed Romero's assessment, saying that the kidnapping was meant to raise money.

Cimatu said the Pentagon group had been snatching foreigners and wealthy individuals in exchange for ransom.

Bishop Jimenez was not inclined to believe that Pierantoni's kidnapping was connected with the ongoing US-led strikes against the Taliban and al-Qaida network of international terrorist Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

"But perhaps some people will use it later on as Italy supports America's air strikes," Jimenez said.

The bishop said he was more inclined to believe that the abduction was a diversionary move by the Abu Sayyaf to ease the military pressure on the bandit group in Basilan where it is still holding an American couple and nine Filipino hostages.

"I believe it has nothing to do with it (Bin Laden's call for jihad). (But) Fr. Beppe will eventually be handed from one group to another so that he could be used as a bargaining chip in the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan . . . that's very possible," Jimenez said.

Absurd

The MILF dismissed as "absurd" the theory that Pierantoni's kidnapping was related to calls for a jihad.

"Some people really do not run out of ideas," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

Kabalu said the kidnapping was staged for ransom "and nothing else."

Kabalu said that the MILF was willing to help and that it had received feelers from the clergy.

"We are only waiting for the letter requesting us to participate in the rescue effort," Kabalu said.

The MILF has successfully interceded in the release of several hostages, including Italian priest Luciano Benedetti in 1998. *With a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A.L. SERIES

Yankees ahead, 2-0

BROSIUS

SEATTLE—Scott Brosius's two-run double keyed a three-run second inning and the New York Yankees beat the Seattle Mariners 3-2 on Thursday for their second road win in as many games of the American League Championship Series.

The three-times defending champion Yankees head home for Games Three, Four and, if necessary, Five on Saturday, Sunday and Monday needing just two more victories to reach their fifth World Series in the past six years.

Winning pitcher Mike Mussina battled through six innings, giving up two runs on four hits with one walk and three strikeouts.

Ramiro Mendoza (1-1/3 innings, two hits, one walk) and Mariano Rivera (1-2/3 innings, no hits, three strikeouts) added three innings of scoreless relief for the Yankees. Rivera has 23 saves in 24 postseason opportunities.

"I don't think about it," said Rivera, who has four saves this postseason. "I just go and do it."

"When you get down to the last three innings of the game and you have a one-run lead," said Yankee manager Joe Torre, "it's not that you're ever comfortable, but you know you have the people that can do the job, and we've had a lot of practice at it."

Seattle ace Freddy Garcia, pitching on only three days' rest, took the loss, yielding three runs on seven hits with four walks and six strikeouts.

"We're going to be back here to play Game Six," Seattle manager Lou Piniella promised.

"I've got confidence in my baseball club. We've gone to New York and beaten this team five out of six times and we're going to do it again."

The Yankees, winners of four of the last five World Series, made some uncharacteristic mistakes but the Mariners could not turn them to their advantage.

Bernie Williams dropped an Ichiro Suzuki fly ball in center with none out in the third but Mussina managed to strand the speedy Japanese star on third.

Veteran Paul O'Neill, no threat to steal a base, was picked off first base in the fourth.

Reuters

Jordan shines but Wizards lose

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan—Michael Jordan scored 24 points and grabbed six rebounds in 32 minutes but his Washington Wizards lost 114-88 to the Detroit Pistons in a preseason game before a sold-out crowd of 11,639 at Van Andel Arena. Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse scored a game-high 36 points.

Jordan was 7-of-20 from the field and 9-of-12 from the free throw line in his third exhibition game since returning from a three-year layoff. Jordan played three more minutes than he did in his first two games combined, despite spraining his left foot Saturday at Miami.

The five-time regular-season Most Valuable Player and six-time NBA champion with the Chicago Bulls didn't look as spectacular as he did when he scored 18 first-quarter points against the Heat.

AP

RP to host Asia dancesport

IN RECOGNITION of the enormous strides the sport has taken in the country, the Philippines has won the right to host the Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships in Manila next October.

The rare honor was received by Dance Sport Council of the Philippines president Becky Garcia and council treasurer Glo Alcala during the recent general meeting of the Asian Dancesport Federation held in Taipeh where Filipino dance athletes amateur Latin champions Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora bagged third place in the Asian Dancesport Championships. Dancing couples from Kazakhstan and Japan finished first and second, respectively. The Marquez-Adora feat slowly but surely showed that Philippine Dancesport is getting close to wining that elusive gold.

Boosting further the Philippines' twin achievements were the creditable showings of the other members of the delegation who beat their more experienced rivals from Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Korea and host Taipeh. The locals included Latin couple Richard Obong and Flora Lagario who placed sixth in the finals; amateur standard dancers Edgar Borromeo and Ana Yango, who also landed sixth; youth Latin and standard champion pair Brian and Karla Ocana who placed fourth in the Latin and fifth in the standard champion pair Brian and Karla Ocana who placed fourth in the Latin and fifth in the standard categories, respectively; and amateur standard dance athletes Rommel Ybalio and Rebecca Vasaylaje who reached the semifinals, placing eighth.

Upon their arrival, the delegation paid a courtesy call on Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason, their major benefactors. Garcia headed the team to Taipeh together with Alcala who also acted as one of the 11 adjudicators that included International Dance Sport Federation director Heinz Spaeker and those from England, Germany, Slovakia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and the host country.

Fed League duel kicks off

A TIGHT battle looms as defending champion Wack Wack hosts Forest Hills today (Oct. 20) at the start of their home-and-away duel for the 2001 Federation League championship.

Wack Wack, its morale boosted by a 4-0 conquest of Manila Southwoods in the semifinals after a similar sweep of Riviera in the quarterfinals, will try to ride the momentum of that big win in its bid to emulate Riviera's back-to-back conquest in the first two editions of the meet.

Forest Hills, however, is hot on a streak itself. It edged out Wack Wack for top honors in Group II due to a better countback, dumped Manila Golf in the quarterfinals before bundling out Alabang in the semis.

Wack Wack has the edge in head-to-head matches with Forest, taking the first match via a 2.5-1.5 decision in Antipolo before being forced to a draw at home.

"I think everything is pretty even. Both teams have balanced lineups but I believe we're the more experienced team," said Wack Wack captain Bones Flores.

From Wack Wack, the final half of the duel will be held tomorrow at Forest Hills, which had the luxury of choosing the day of its hosting due to a better eliminations record.

Wack Wack will be bannered by former national player Marlon Dizon and jungolf standouts Kit Lopez and Sammy Sy. Providing support are Rep. Jack Duavit, Elphege Wong, Tetu Santos and Estong Lim.

The Forest Hills frontline will be bannered by club champion Raffy Garcia, Jong Laput and Larry Patnogon.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA National Car Rental Classic, Second Round at 10:30 a.m. on Star Sports

Golf Classics - The Nearly Men at 11 a.m. (r) on ESPN

Asian PGA/ Davidoff Tour - Volvo China Open, Day Three at 2 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Stuttgart), Early Round Coverage Day #4 at 8:30 a.m. on Star Sports

ATP Tennis Show at 8 p.m. on ESPN

Cavite derby on tap

CAVITE Coliseum and Derby Center, located along the Aguinaldo Highway (km. 18) in Bacoor, Cavite, will celebrate its 11th anniversary in grand style on Dec. 3, 5 and 7 by staging the annual Cavite 7-Cock International Derby.

Pagcor-Casino Filipino is the event's major sponsor. Also supporting the event are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Belamyl by Novartis.

Regarded as one of the longest-running sports affair, the three-day international cockfest will again be hosted by Sen. Ramon Revilla and his longtime friend, lawyer Rudy Salud. The derby's beneficiary will be the Philippine Mental Health.

Sen. Revilla and Salud's entry, GF-Ban Bacolod, recently won the 5th Ucap/Firebird 7-Stag Derby Hosted by hotelier Biboy Enriquez at Mandaluyong Coliseum.

'Stagwars' finals set Oct. 22-24 at Araneta

WHO'LL win the coveted title of NCA Stagfighter of the Year?

This will be known when the five-leg Stagwars series under the auspices of the prestigious National Cockers Association winds up with the staging of the NCA 7-Stag Derby on Oct. 22-24 at the world-class Araneta Coliseum.

After four explosive legs, engineer Gerry Fevidal (Geran-Arnis Master) is leading the race by the slimmest of margin over past winners McArthur Sir Vincent of Alan Tan, Binangonan MK of former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, McArthur Dominator of Patrick Puno, Jima-Fer of Pampanga's Jun and Rudy Jingco and last Wednesday's penultimate leg champion March 19-21 Ucap.

The following NCA officials and members will host the season-ending stag derby, namely Gov. Ito Ynares, Gerry Fevidal, Edgar Santos, Blandy Tolentino, Firefly Group, Tos Reyes, Alan Tan, John Capinpin, engineer Pacifico Berin and Jingco and Madlambayan brothers. Only stags screened and wing-banded by NCA, NGBA, GFBAN, Balbina, Pagba and IGBA are qualified for the stagfest which stakes handsome cash prizes to the champion and runners-up. Submission of weights will be on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 21, at the Big Dome. For details, call Dong Lamoste at 911-3101.

Cink leads; Tiger 4 down

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida — Stewart Cink and four others shot 7-under 65s Thursday to lead the National Car Rental Classic while Tiger Woods, back on the PGA Tour, shot a 69 in blustery conditions.

Ryder Cup member Cink and two other leaders, Steve Lowery and Scott McCarron, could all use a good week to secure their spots in the Tour Championship for the top 30 on the money list. Shaun Micheel has much more at stake - a job next year - so his 65 was even more important.

The other 65 belonged to Len Mattiace.

AP

ST ANDREWS, Scotland—South Africans Ernie Els and Omar Sandys shared the first round lead with 7-under-par rounds of 65 Thursday as the first Dunhill Links Championship got under way on three Scottish courses.

Els carded his score at Carnoustie while Sandys, who turned professional two years ago, fired his 65 on the Old Course after early morning fog delayed play on all three courses.

Roligon 4-stag tilt on

ACTION-PACKED encounters will be seen today with the holding of the much-awaited Mangzee 4-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by well-known cocker Joey del Rosario, this penultimate 4-stag derby will be participated in by popular breeders from Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Among those who confirmed their participation are lawyer Rudy Salud, Benjie Lim, ASF, Tonette Luzurriaga, Ricky Castillo, Buchoy Ang, Sonny Lagon, Momong Agudo, Boyboy Roa, Pol Estrellado, Lito Orillosa, Dennis del Rosario, William Go, Carding Ng, Emoy Gorgonia and many other surprise guests.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty announced that all stags screened by Mimi Itchon and Juancho Aguirre will be accepted in this derby.

He also said that it will start at exactly 7 p.m.

Weights between 1.7 kgs and 2.1 kgs must be submitted on the day of the derby from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Mark's Treasure 2. Powerhouse 3. Annihilator

Race 3—1. Pen Tristram 2. La Signorina 3. Wassapenin 4. Raggedy Belle

Race 4—1. Born Perfect 2. Impeachment 3. The Jackal 4. Sumasagitsit

Race 5—1. Time Specialist 2. Portal Dancer 3. Ayos Ba There 4. Witch Craft

Race 6—1. Time for Miracles 2. Rapid Dash 3. Power Corrupts 4. Party Princess 5. Make Your Mark

Race 7—1. Apple Splash 2. Halo Effect

Race 8—1. North Shine 2. Awashincash 3. Lucky Partner 4. Sweet Topic 5. Jinky

Race 9—1. Super Dancer 2. Morning Nell 3. Howard Huge 4. High Typhoon

Race 10—1. Emancipated Belle 2. Aurora Borealis 3. Pistol Red 4. Flying Carpet

Race 11—1. Lovely Luigi 2. Roppongi 3. Lady Queen 4. Cubano 5. Aprey's Choice 6. Prince of Africa

Race 12—1. James Joy 2. Wine and Roses 3. Anahaw

Race 13—1. Regal Mischief 2. Love and Kisses 3. Red Thunder 4. Reine Margaux/Grande Ecole 5. Hot Lips 6. Dragon Heart/Alluring

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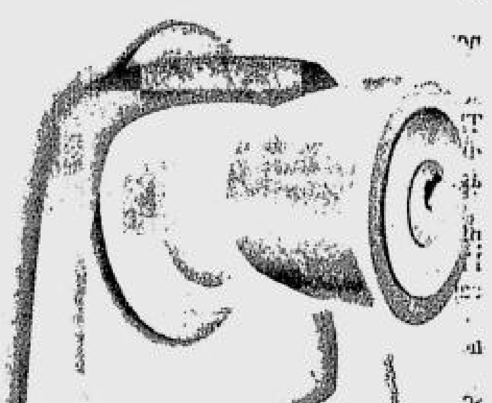
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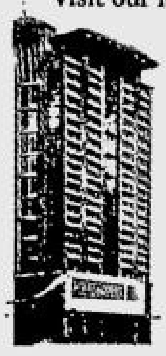
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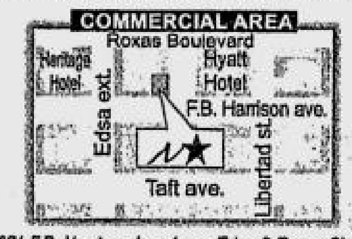

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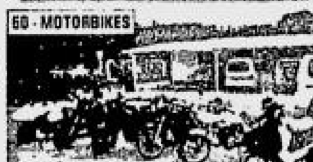
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Hewitt ups streak to 16

STUTTGART, Germany —U.S. Open champion Lleyton Hewitt kept alive his bid to become No. 1 in the world and stretched his winning streak to 16 by beating Guillermo Canas, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, to reach the quarterfinals of the Stuttgart Masters Series on Thursday. Hewitt needs to win the event to become No. 1 for the first time. Ninth-seeded Pete Sampras rallied to edge Marcelo Rios 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Jaca fights Bulala today

RP's No. 1 bantamweight Gemrex Jaca will fight Alfren Bulala today in a 12-round bout dubbed "Clash at the Waterfront" at the Waterfront Hotel in Mactan, Cebu. Bulala, ranked No. 2, beat Medgoen 3K Battery in March. Eriberto Gejon and Lito Danggod clash for the mini flyweight championship in the other featured bout.

Phone Pals silence rivals

Game Today (Balanga, Bataan)
4p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BRANDON Williams showed too many weapons and Tanduay found them hard to stop as Talk N Text walked away with an 86-76 victory last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

In heat despite the relatively cool weather, Williams broke into a third-quarter shooting frenzy as the Phone Pals went on to formalize their entry in the quarterfinals with their seventh win in nine games.

The 6-foot-2 Williams knocked in 15 of his 29 points in that span behind an array of calculated perimeter shots and timely incursions that hinted of an ominous outcome for the Rhummasters.

With Asi Taulava and Norman Gonzales pitching in their share of brilliancy, the Phone Pals ripped the game open, 67-47, late in the third.

TAULAVA

Playing minus the bull-strong Eric Menk, the Rhummasters displayed some signs of revival in the winding minutes but the law of averages later caught up with them amid the Phone Pals flexibility down the stretch.

"Our game plan was followed to the letter," said Talk N Text coach Louie Alas. "Two things. Break the press and minimize Tanduay's transition plays."

The Phone Pals stuck to Alas' idea like cement, deliberately slowing down things to defuse the Rhummasters' rah-rah brand of basketball.

Taulava and Gonzales aided the flashy Williams with 25 and 14 points, respectively, while doing much of the damage on the defensive end in stopping Billy Thomas.

Shackled all night, Thomas was limited to 20 points as he failed to carry his team out of the cellar for Tanduay's seventh debacle in nine games.

In the second game, Ray Tutt scored 10 of his team-high 40 points in overtime to lift Red Bull to a 101-94 triumph over Sta. Lucia Realty.

The Thunder rose to 4-4 along with San Miguel Beer and Ginebra while handing the Realtors' second defeat in nine matches. The Realtors are now tied with the Phone Pals atop the standings.

TALK N TEXT 86—Williams 29, Taulava 25, Gonzales 14, Pablo 6, Demape 4, Camaso 4, Fran 2, Codinera 2, Angeles 0.

TANDUAY 76—Cariaso 25, Thomas 20, Hawkins 15, Cantonjos 6, Pumaren 4, Realubit 2, Hontiveros 2, Balingit 2, Locsin 0, Webb 0.

Quarters: 23-10, 40-32, 67-49, 86-76

FedEx wins; Marlins shine

FEDEX Laguna's tight defense defused Negros' firepower last night as the Lakers prevailed, 95-88, in the MBA Second Phase at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

Chris Clay and Richard Melencio provided the crucial points down the stretch while Jeffrey Flowers was intimidating down low for the Lakers, who raised their win-loss record to 5-3 in the Northern Conference.

Games Tomorrow
San Juan Gym
3 p.m.—TPG Davao vs Cebuana Lhuillier
5:30 p.m.—Socsargen-Taguig vs San Juan

Second Phase Standings

	W	L
North		
LBC Batangas	8	1
Andok's S. Juan	6	1
FedEx Laguna	5	3
Nueva Ecija	2	6
South		
Negros	6	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	3	5
Socsargen-Taguig	2	8
TPG Davao	0	6

Clay and Melencio scored four points each in the last five minutes, which saw Negros threaten to within 93-88 through John Ferriols and Dino Aldeguer. Negros fell to 6-2 in the Southern Conference.

Earlier, Bong Alvarez scored 42 points to lead Socsargen-Taguig to a 106-92 rout of slumping Nueva Ecija at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Defying all guards thrown against him, Alvarez sniped, drove and dunked as he evoked memories of his 71-point single game effort for Alaska in 1990. Alvarez also grabbed 8 rebounds, had 6 steals, 2 blocks and 3 assists to cop best player honors.

The Marlins, showing vast improvement as the conference progresses, posted their second win in 10 starts to stay in the hunt for a semifinals berth in the Southern Conference. More important, they avenged their 71-63 defeat to the Patriots in the Aug. 31 inaugural.

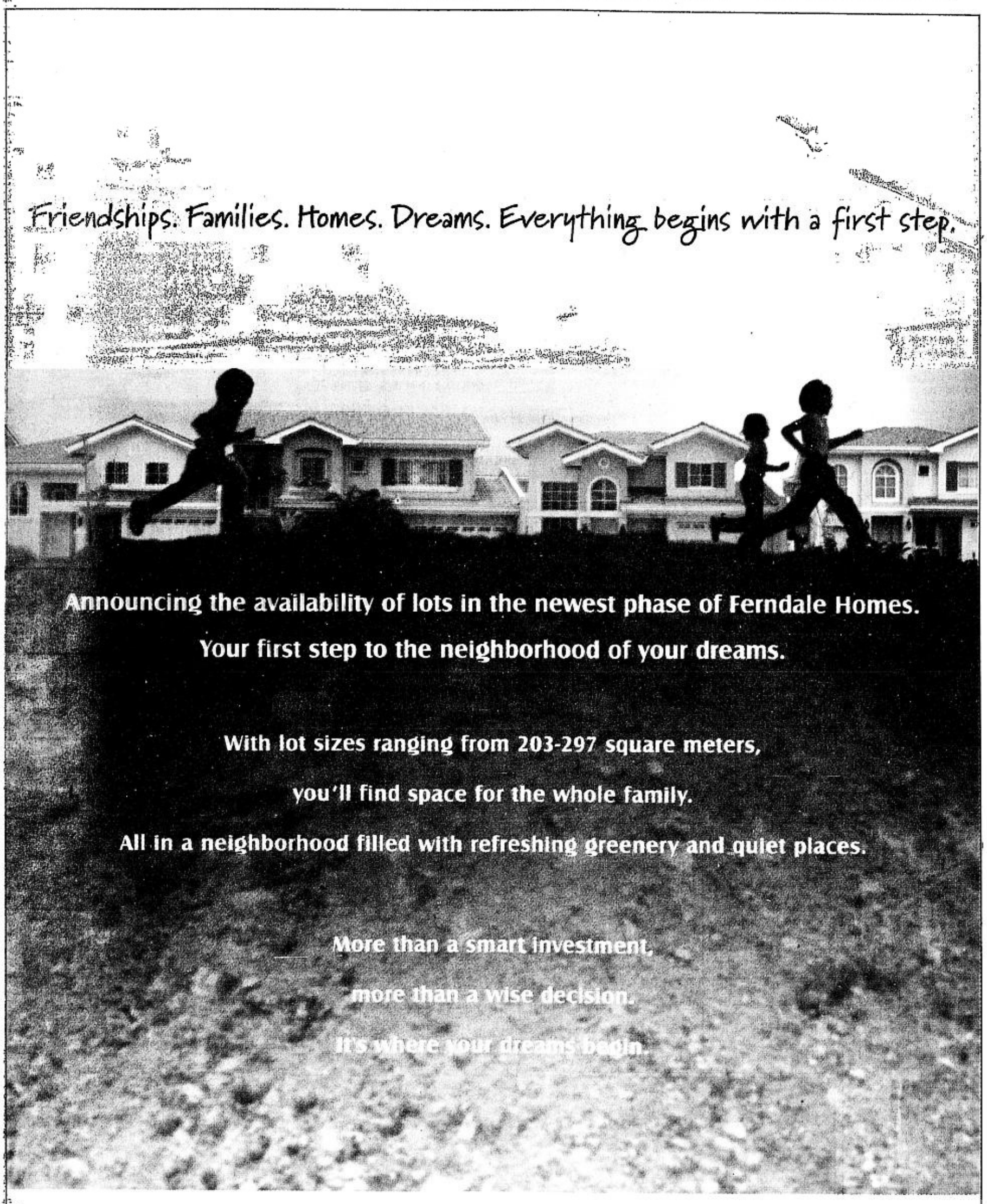
The Patriots, on the other hand, tasted their sixth straight defeat after taking their first two games and stayed mired at the cellar in the Northern Conference.

Assisted by Buboy Rodriguez and Egay Echavez, Alvarez pushed the Marlins to a 90-73 spread early in the fourth quarter. Echavez wound up with 21 points on top of 11 assists while Rodriguez added 20 points, 7 rebounds and 3 steals. *Roy Luarca*

SOCSARGEN-TAGUIG 106—Alvarez 42, Echavez 21, Rodriguez 20, Almonte 11, Flores 6, Teng 4, Lumantas 2, Santos 0, Reyes 0, Tizon 0.

NUEVA ECIJA 92—De Guzman 17, Chaneco 16, Bautista 16, De Guzman 14, Aquino 8, Ferma 6, Manucat 7, Ferma 6, Bansil 3, De Guia 2, Punzalan 2, Magat 1.

Quarters: 31-26, 60-52, 86-71, 106-92.



UAAP dribblers to appeal ruling

LEADING UAAP and NCAA dribblers are up in arms against the ruling of the UAAP board headed by Anton Montinola of the Far Eastern University regarding its decision banning their stint in the PBL.

Among those opposing the moves are players from La Salle, Ateneo, University of Santo Tomas, University of the East, National University and Adamson, who feel aggrieved by the board ruling. Dribblers from Jose Rizal University, San Beda College, San Sebastian College, Letran and College of St. Benilde are joining their UAAP counterparts in appealing the decision in a press conference on Tuesday at the Makati Coliseum.

Despite a pending appeal by the PBL in Malacañang regarding the GAB ruling which declared it professional, the UAAP deemed it wise to prohibit collegiate players from seeing action in the PBL or lose their eligibility.

Observers view the UAAP decision as tantamount to robbing players, who come from poor families, of a source of livelihood. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Women's tennis begins Oct. 29

THE CONTINUED absence of former SEA Games gold medalist Maricris Fernandez will leave Czarina Mae Arevalo and Fil-American Diane Matias to try to keep the Philippine flag flying in the two-leg Union Cement-ITF women's circuit slated Oct. 29 to Nov. 4 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Oscar Hilado, chair and chief executive officer of Union Cement, yesterday said Fernandez, who won the singles gold in the 1999 Brunei SEAG, has decided to concentrate on her studies at Long Beach State in California.

"I've been in touch with her and at present she's a full-time student," said Hilado. Hilado, Philta president Col. Buddy Andrada, executive vice-president Manuel Misa, and Union Cement senior officers Francisco Viray and Francis Felizardo attended yesterday's launching at the Trader's Royal Hotel along Roxas Blvd. Each leg offers a total cash pot of $10,000.

GameworX meet slated

GAMEWORX holds a special Halloween treat when it stages the "500 Classic Phantom" team bowling tournament on Oct. 31 at StriXe, 4th level of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The tournament is open to all groups whose members should be in Halloween attire. Each team must be composed of three male and/or female bowler, whose combined average will not exceed 500 pinfalls.

Champion team will receive P9,000 worth of gift certificate plus trophy, while 1st runner-up and the 2nd runner-up will get P6,000 and P3,000 worth of certificate, respectively.

Three members of the team will play three games. The fourth imaginary bowler will be the Phantom score—meaning the highest mark made by the three bowlers in the frame will be included as the fourth bowler with score included in the total game series of the team.

Multiple entries permitted but only the highest score will register in the team standing. The top three teams based on the total pinfalls, including handicap, will be declared as the champion, 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up, respectively.

League fee is P300 per bowler, while registration will start as early as Oct. 25 up to Oct. 31 at the bowling counter of GameworX-StriXe.

Cell phone van hijacked; 1 killed A21
Fake cigarette firms raided A21

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Anthrax scare might raise cost of medicine, health group warns

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ AND ALCUIN PAPA

ANTHRAX is prevalent in the Philippines and is a common disease among farmers, according to an official of a local health group.

The real danger in anthrax is the panic it caused around the world, a hysteria that could trigger an increase in the cost of antibiotics used to treat the affliction, said Dr. Jojo Carabeo, secretary general of the health group Health Alliance for Democracy or Head.

"Anthrax is not yet eradicated in the Philippines," Carabeo said. "It is, in fact, called the poor farmers' disease because the bacteria usually come from farm animals like carabaos."

He said that many farmers regard anthrax as ordinary skin disease.

Carabeo warned that "over-diagnosis" by some doctors of an otherwise very common disease could spur the rise in cost of anthrax medication, making it unaffordable to poor people, who are suffering from it.

In 1999, the Department of Health recorded 23 cases of anthrax in Ilocos, Carabeo said.

But there could be many cases which have not been reported to the DOH, he said.

"What we do not want here is the hype," Carabeo said. "Imagine if doctors over-diagnose. It will redound to greater cost (of medication), which will be unaffordable to ordinary people."

Anthrax can be easily treated with antibiotics, he said. It responds to low-grade antibiotics like penicillin.

On Thursday, President Macapagal-Arroyo assured the public that a 15-minute bath is all it takes to get rid of anthrax spores.

Carabeo said US doctors had taken to prescribing a strong line of antibiotics in treating reported anthrax cases after the

ANTHRAX/ A20

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'Oil depot will never be allowed to return'

BY JEROME ANING

"THE PANDACAN oil depot is like the San Mateo landfill in Rizal. Both were rejected by residents and would never be allowed to return."

A Manila councilor said this yesterday as he practically rejected efforts by the "Big Three" in the country's petroleum industry to allow the depot complex to remain in one of the city's most densely populated districts.

In an interview, Councilor Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion yesterday said the city government would prevail as both officials and residents have solidified their stand on ridding Manila of the oil depot.

She recalled that Rizal residents opposed to the reopening of the San Mateo landfill launched demonstrations and even set up barricades to defy efforts by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Malacañang to reopen the dumpsite.

Asuncion said she believes Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. are merely bluffing in their warning that the fuel prices could rise if the phaseout and transfer of the oil depot would take place.

"I believe they (the oil firms) are only bluffing," Asuncion told the Inquirer. "They are buying time and the bottom line is they don't want to go."

The sixth district councilor chairs the council committee on the whole which has conducted three public hearings on the phaseout issue in the past two months.

Asuncion also dismissed as delaying tactics the proposal to conduct first a "comprehensive study" of the phaseout's ramifications, which the oil firms' executive said could last 6 to 18 months.

The firms also said they needed between P4 billion and P6 billion as investment in case their transfer takes place and that consumers would be burdened with these additional expenses.

Asuncion pointed out that the council has already made up its mind on the issue when it passed an ordinance last month authorizing the mayor to close down the depot in six months to two years.

The councilor said they learned that the petroleum companies in 1993 conducted studies on the possible phaseout and transfer. The firms even proposed Lemery, Batangas as an alternative site for the depot.

"They considered the transfer eight years ago so all they need to do is to plug in current values and they have a study," Asuncion said.

She said the fuel firms could initiate the phaseout in six months. She said the companies could empty all their tanks of all flammable materials within six months.

The council has allotted five days for the oil firms and the Department of Energy to submit their position papers on the phaseout.

Asuncion said the transfer is urgent because, although the firms assured them of the safety of the facility in "normal times," they could not give the same assurance in abnormal instances, such as terror attacks.

She said the city fire department admitted that even in normal times, it could not fight a big fire in the depot.

Asuncion denied accusations that politics had something to do with the phaseout.

"Our bottom line here is public service," she said.

She said the council "is only making sure that everything is prepared for the eventual transfer" and that the firms are "given a chance to air their side in the spirit of fair play."

ALLAN Victorino and Dani Bayani of Petron Foundation turn over old newspapers to the author. VALHANDUMON

Inquirer paper drive collects 96,000 kilos

BY CELINE R. MADAMBA

MORE than 96,000 kilos of old newspapers and tabloids from hundreds of households, schools, parishes, and corporations throughout Metro Manila have been collected through the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "New Paper Drive."

The drive, launched last June 6, involved the purchase of old newspapers and tabloids at P3 per kilo over a three-month period. Newspapers purchased through the drive were recycled into reusable newsprint or "new paper."

More than 300 institutions participated in the campaign, including the League of Corporate Foundations, Petron Corp., McCann Erickson Philippines, Philippine National Construction Co., Philippine National Oil Co., GMA Network, Dasmariñas Village, and La Salle Greenhills.

The Archdiocese of Manila, through its parishes, and Metrobank, through its 39 branches in Metro Manila, adopted the program as a fundraising initiative for their various socio-civic and developmental programs. Almost 3,000 kilos of old newspapers were donated to Metrobank and its foundation from employees and customers.

As the INQUIRER'S annual commitment to environmental protection, the New Paper Drive aims to save trees and increase awareness of and participation in solid waste management. The drive, which runs from June to September every year, also aims to boost environmental efforts and help address economic challenges facing the local newspaper industry.

According to the Philippine Environmental Quality Report, the country's rainforests have been steadily shrinking since 1903, from 21 million hectares to less than 6 million hectares today. Only 33 percent of the country's original rainforests remain, according the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Paper production, which consumes up to 19 trees for every ton of paper produced, continues to be a contributing factor to this trend.

By recycling paper, local paper manufacturers will be able to offset the use of virgin wood pulp and ensure a cleaner and safer environment. The production of recycled newsprint involves less toxic processes than newly produced paper. Paper made from 100 percent recycled fibers can be whitened with an oxygen-based bleaching process, which reduces the toxic fumes and water pollution often linked to chlorine-intensive bleaching involved in paper production.

Moreover, 19 trees can be saved for every ton of paper recycled.

The importance of recycling in minimizing health and environmental hazards is clear, especially when viewed in the light of solid waste management. Since the Payatas tragedy, the mismanagement of waste and the excessive use of landfills for garbage have posed a threat to the environment and to the living conditions of the poor in our country.

INQUIRER/A25

Marikina imposes curfew for minors

BY NELSON F. FLORES

A CURFEW for minors has been imposed in Marikina City to curb criminality even as police reported only six murder cases in the city since January.

Parents of violators of the curfew from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. face a P300 fine, and the violators themselves could be asked to render three hours of community service or undergo counseling by a pries or guidance counselor, depending on the discretion of the barangay captain, said Marikina Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando.

Fernando said the city council approved City Ordinance 163 or the curfew ordinance as early as August and would be strictly implemented by the police and local barangay officials.

But minors with legitimate nighttime jobs and students in night classes with valid school identification card are exempted from the ordinance.

She said minors accompanied by their parents are also exempted.

The recent rash of violent incidents like gang wars, rape slaying and petty crime involving the youth was the reason behind the ordinance, which also covers public drinking and smoking in public during curfew.

"But the parents or guardian should first be informed of the violation before any penalty could be meted on the offender," Fernando said.

Fernando stressed that violators who are found to be under the influence of liquor or drugs would be detained and appropriate action would be taken against them and their parents.

Since the ordinance was implemented, 100 offenders were already apprehended and penalized, Fernando said.

METROBRIEFS

Bank man shot

SECURITY guard Elsie Salay, 52, was cleaning his pistol on Thursday when it accidentally went off, hitting Eduardo Louie, 47, a corporate supervisor of the Allied Bank branch at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati City. Salay told SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal of the Makati Police he took out the bullets from the gun, "but I didn't know there was one left inside the chamber." Louie was talking to the detachment commander of the building's security force when the gun went off. Police said the victim preferred to file charges against Salay, who is now detained at the Makati Police detention cell. *Alcuin Papa*

Cops vs vendors

VENDOR Nicolas Perez, 21, of F.B. Harrison Street, Baclaran, Pasay, was injured in Thursday's violent clash between vendors and members of Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad's "Action Team" in front of an Iglesia ni Cristo chapel. Trinidad's men, also known as the "Red Boys," were clearing the sidewalks of illegal vendors upon the request of INC officials when the sellers allegedly resisted and pelted Trinidad's men with stones and fruits about 3 p.m., said Benjamin Reyes, chief of the Mayor's Action Team. Perez suffered injuries on the left eye and hand and was detained after the incident. *Christian Esguerra*

Gay assault

A HOMOSEXUAL was accused of molesting a year-old boy on top of a tomb inside the South Cemetery in Makati City on Thursday. Supt. Jose Ramon Salido, chief of the Makati Police Criminal Investigation Division said Clemencio Enriquez, 26, of Tejeros, Makati, went to Kalayaan Avenue to visit the mother of the boy whom he had not seen for a long time. When the mother left the house to buy food, Enriquez took the boy to the cemetery, according to the neighbors. The neighbors then alerted barangay watchmen who allegedly caught the suspect redhanded. But Enriquez denied the charges and claimed the watchmen beat him up to make him admit to the crime. *Alcuin Papa*

Rape-slay suspect

ANTIPOLO City authorities yesterday filed charges against suspected drug dependent Emilio Penedel for the rape and murder of a five-year-old girl early this week. The mother of the victim asked City Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan to make sure that Penedel, a tricycle driver, gets the death penalty for he deserved no mercy. The victim's body, with its throat slashed, was found before dawn of Oct. 17 in Mendoza Compound, near the suspect's residence in Sitio Bagong Purok, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City. Later, witnesses came up and identified Penedel as the man who was last seen with the victim. When arrested, Penedel allegedly owned up to the crime. *Nelson F. Flores*

A dictatorial city mayor

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NOT all government officials agree with military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus in his crusade against narco-politics. People are entitled to their own opinion.

But it's an entirely different story if a government official would prevent Corpus or any other person from expressing his views on narco-politics.

That, in effect, was what Mayor Antonio Acharon of General Santos City did. The mayor stopped recently the Rotary Clubs and some student organizations in his city from holding a joint meeting which would have for its guests Corpus and Mary Ong, a.k.a Rosebud.

***

Corpus and Rosebud were all set to go to General Santos City when a Rotary Club official told them the meeting was cancelled.

The civic club official said that Mayor Acharon had persuaded the sponsoring club not to push through with the meeting.

Wow, we thought that dictatorship went with the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986!

***

The guiding rules of the Rotary Club are:

- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Is it the truth?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?

Apparently, the Rotary Clubs of General Santos followed only one rule: Will it build good and better friendship?

They want to retain the mayor's goodwill and friendship. To heck with the two other Rotary rules.

Nakakahiya kayo !

***

I've been invited to speak before numerous Rotary Clubs in the country. I'm deeply honored to be their guest speaker.

The Rotary Club fosters not only camaraderie among its members, who are prominent people in a community, but also a free exchange of ideas. This usually happens between the guest speaker and the Rotarians. After delivering his speech, the guest speaker fields questions from his hosts on the subject of his speech or other topics within his expertise.

After each Rotary Club speech, I felt that I had learned more from my hosts than they from me. Even during the dictatorship, when I also got invited to some Rotary Clubs, I came away feeling that democracy was alive at least during my speech and the open forum after my speech. I may have delivered controversial speeches, but always my Rotary hosts respected my views.

The Rotary Clubs of General Santos City have put to shame their sister clubs in other parts of the country.

***

Rear Adm. Ruben Lista, Philippine Coast Guard commandant, is a very honest man. I should know, because I've been his friend since he was still a commander (equivalent Army rank: lieutenant colonel) in the Philippine Navy.

But I wonder if I can say the same thing about his commanders in Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo City.

Reports I've received from businessmen in those places indicate that the Coast Guard commanders in those places act like *kotong* cops.

***

For example, according to the businessmen, the Coast Guard commanders in those two cities would hold the release of domestic cargoes in the guise of inspecting them for anthrax!

This is not only plain harassment but also illegal as only the Bureau of Customs can hold the release of a ship's cargo.

But the real purpose of the inspection is allegedly to extort money from the businessmen who own the cargoes in question.

Ben Lista, please investigate those two Coast Guard commanders.

***

Two top officials at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) are contesting the agency's top post: Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit and Senior Supt. Josue Engano.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has left it to the courts to decide.

If I may give my 10-cents' worth, Alit is the more qualified between the two by reason of his rank which is equivalent to brigadier general in the military. Engano's rank is equivalent to full-fledged colonel.

Moreover, Alit holds a master's degree, a Career Executive Service Officer (Ceso) eligibility, which is required of such a lofty position. Engano's claim to the position is his being a lawyer. In this country, lawyers are cheaper by the dozen.

***

The present director of the Bureau of Corrections (formerly Bureau of Prisons), Ricardo B. Macala, should not have been appointed to that post because he doesn't have the qualification.

Macala's only qualification for holding that high position is his being a *bata-bata* of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

While his predecessors are retired two-star generals, Macala retired from the police service as a lieutenant colonel. His claim to fame is being president of a small-time security agency and his stint with the Batangas City police station as its chief.

He's not a holder of a Ceso, which is required of a director of a bureau under the Department of Justice.

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Anthrax scare . . . (From page A19)

Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, fearing that the bacteria have been genetically modified.

When the anthrax scare broke out, a former health department official, who is now with a big pharmaceutical company, said anthrax could be treated with Ciprobay, an antibiotic with the same strength as cipro, with the active component ciprofloxacin.

But Ciprobay costs as much as P75, unlike penicillin and other low-grade antibiotics, and is expensive for ordinary people, Carabeo said.

The medication is apart from other medical costs such as laboratory exams, culture and sensitivity (CNS) tests, he said.

Contrary to recent reports, pulmonary anthrax does not spread easily, and its spread through the mail is very remote, Carabeo said.

"Those at risk are those who have the habit of sniffing their mail," Carabeo said. "But even so, when in powder form, anthrax cannot easily penetrate the lungs unless it has been aerosolized."

But authorities are not dismissing the threat posed by anthrax.

The Metro Manila Development Authority and the Philippine National Police have formed joint forces and a task force to meet the possible threat of the anthrax.

In a meeting among the MMDA, the Metro Manila Mayors Council and the PNP on Thursday, PNP Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said they would "give priority" to the possible spread of the anthrax.

"We have formed a special task force against anthrax but I have ordered my men not to neglect the campaign against criminality," Mendoza said.

The task force would be composed of the PNP, the Department of Health and local government officials, said the MMDA.

Another objective of the task force is to disseminate information on the anthrax and make the public aware of its effects and symptoms.

Despite the PNP's admission that it lacked equipment to fight the spread of anthrax, Mendoza said the national police would still do its best to fight bio terrorism.

Fake cigarette firms raided

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) confiscated P15 million worth of machines and equipment used in manufacturing fake Philip Morris cigarettes in raids on two business establishments in Valenzuela City.

NBI Director General Reynaldo G. Wycoco said the simultaneous raids were conducted last week on Kenlo Marketing on Earth Street, E & E Compound, and the George Sy Printing House at 33 Parada St., both in Barangay Parada, Valenzuela City.

Philip Morris Incorporated, through its lawyers from Quasha, Ancheta, Pena and Nolasco law firm, had filed complaints with the NBI against the fake manufacturers, accusing the two manufacturing firms of "unauthorized manufacture, sale and distribution of fake Philip Morris cigarettes." Wycoco said that agents from NBI intellectual property rights division, led by Head Agent Rafael Z. Ragos, confirmed after investigation that the two firms were involved in the manufacture of fake Philip Morris cigarettes. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Cell phone van hijacked; 1 killed

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

A MAN was killed while his relative was injured when heavily armed robbers hijacked the victims' van full of cellular phones worth P3 million in Quezon City Thursday night.

Noli Sotoza, 35, a cellular phone dealer, survived the heist though he was shot in the forehead and right leg, but his cousin and driver, Maher Sotoza, was found dead in the stolen Tamaraw FX which the robbers abandoned in Las Piñas, police said.

According to Chief Insp. Bartolome Bustamante of the Central Police District information office, Noli was with his wife Ma. Imelda on board a Ford Expedition, while Noli's cousin Maher was driving the Tamaraw FX (UJE-294), when six armed men on board a gray Honda Civic cut the path of the victims' vehicles near the corner of Cecilia and 14th Streets, New Manila, Quezon City about 9:30 p.m.

Sensing the threat, Noli pulled out his gun, opened fire on the Civic, which bore no license plates, and hit one of the still unidentified robbers, Bustamante said.

But the suspects returned fire and hit Noli, forcing the victim to flee in his vehicle with his wife.

Some of the suspects drove away on board the Honda sedan while the others commandeered the FX with Maher on board, police said.

The robbers then took Maher and the stolen vehicle to Las Piñas where they killed him, according to a report filed by PO2 Jeffrey Flores.

Noli's wife, who was unhurt, took her husband to St. Luke's Hospital where he now lies in critical condition.

Three hours after the hijacking, a Joe Regalado found the stolen van near Golden Acres on Mangga Road, Las Piñas, police said.

Residents told investigators that they heard at least two gunshots in the vicinity around midnight.

At the crime scene, police also found two spent shells from a still unknown gun caliber.

CPD investigators said the suspects had apparently been monitoring the activities of the victims.

"(The suspects) apparently knew that the businessman was carrying the cellular phones at that time," Bustamante said.

At St. Luke's Hospital, the family of the victims refused to talk to reporters.

Police suspect that a well-financed criminal syndicate could be behind Thursday night's bloody heist.

But CPD investigators have not discounted the possibility that the robbery could have been triggered by a dispute involving Noli Sotoza and a business rival.

BIR officer arrested for receiving grease money

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents arrested a Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) officer for receiving grease money from insurance brokers in Pasig City.

Fatima S. Pacuno, 37, a certified public accountant, and revenue examiner I of the BIR District Office No. 43 in Pasig City, was arrested after she was allegedly caught in the act of receiving P10,000 from the Tektite Insurance Brokers, said NBI Director General Reynaldo G. Wycoco.

Pacuno allegedly offered not to check Tektite's financial records and to issue a tax clearance certificate in exchange for P10,000.

"She already has a previous (graft) case," Wycoco said. "I think it's becoming a habit for her."

He said Pacuno called Tektite on Oct. 17 and offered her services to the brokers. The complainant immediately sought the help of authorities.

Wycoco said the entrapment operation was set on Thursday afternoon at the Red Ribbon bakeshop on Shaw Boulevard in Pasig City.

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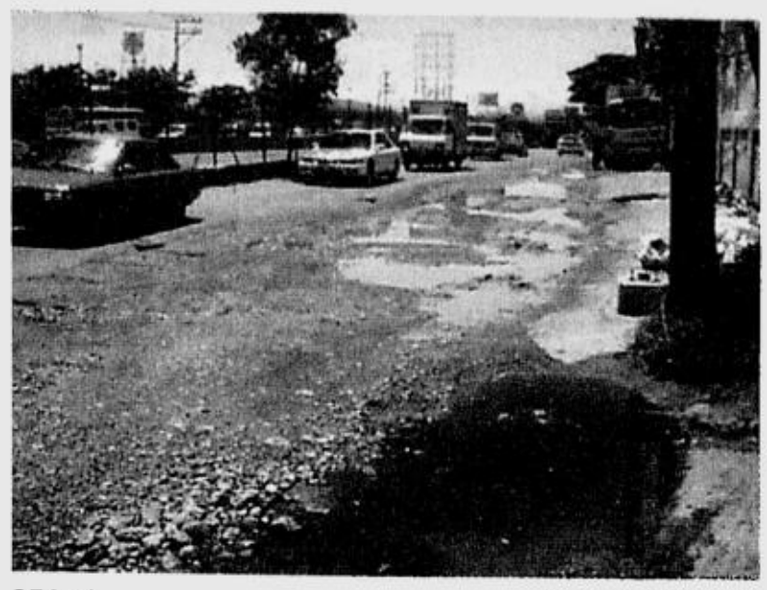
HINT: Check out *Lifestyle Section* on Sunday, October 21 for My Wish Box.

Of service roads and men

By Bibeth Orteza



SEA of Tranquility or giant "sungka"?

CARLITOS SIGUION-REYNA

ON THE South Super Highway, service roads are long stretches that flank the highway itself, cut into sections by the exit points of Bicutan, Sucat, Alabang and all the way to eternity, designed for access to residential areas within.

These have become service roads only in name and not by nature, no different from babies named after saints on the calendar growing up no way saintly, turning into drug pushers, rapists, kidnappers, murderers.

The service roads were perhaps of some use in the early '90s, when driving to Makati from Alabang and back was not that bad a trip to make, unless it rained.

Belatedly anticipating traffic conditions to worsen, powers-that-be put up a skyway that took as long as World War II to partially construct: From the last three years of the FVR administration to the first year of Erap's, four years of Hell in the Pacific, redux.

Working couples left home as friends (5 a.m.), got to their respective workplaces as enemies (9:10 a.m.), then went back either silent or yawning (10 p.m.), too weary to resume earlier acrimony. Single-income families' husbands whiled away rush hour in Makati bars and lounges doing "happy time." Traffic became the alibi of the unconscionable, the perfect cover-up for many an illicit affair.

It was harder, and infinitely so, on those who took public transportation, folks who struggled to earn a living, educate, feed and clothe their children. Daily public commute from one end of the highway to the other sapped libidinous urges of *binata, may-asawa, may kabit.* Traffic accidentally evolved into perhaps the only population control method the Church approved of.

And yet it stayed mostly on the highway. Vehicles were bumper-to-bumper along Merville-Bicutan, Bicutan-Sucat, Sucat-Alabang, etcetera, because they could not ease into the congested main thoroughfare.

Reversed

That was then. The situation has completely reversed, what with a good part of the skyway up and doing well, give or take bad weather, regular rush-hour jams and literally highway robbery toll fees (an arm and a leg for use of ground level, half-a-torso for the skyway itself). Vehicles now go bumper-to-bumper on the highway because of congested service roads.

Why so?

One service road is the twin of another; no peculiarities set them apart.

Uniformly characterized by clusters of vendors selling anything from fruits and newspapers to fish and *langis panghilot,* buses, jeeps and FX taxis loading or disgorging passengers at all entrance and exit points, tricycles and tri-*sikad*, these service roads are likewise dotted by factories, diggings for telephone lines and water pipes, diggings anew for the repair of the same telephone lines and water pipes, potholes, and mountains of uncollected garbage that make the two-lane stretch even narrower.

Jeepney and FX drivers court the patronage of factory workers and park right in front of factory gates, in cahoots with security guards and policemen who don't shoo them away, no matter the lengthening line of cars wanting to go past them.

Tricycles and tri-*sikad* that should carry a minimum of three load six, a few even dare to take on *lipat-bahay* tasks and transport gas stoves, refrigerators, and beds, with the weight moving at a snail's pace, oblivious of the angry blare of horns behind them.

While it is illegal for vehicles to park along service roads and ordinances have banned tricycles and tri-*sikad* from plying their route, complaints obfuscate into anti-poor sentiments. Complainants who haven't done anything solid for community and country sulk and retreat into *dedma.*

Shameless

Service roads are dug up with such shameless regularity that someone has got to be earning kickback out of it one way or another. Excavations are never sealed with cement, but invariably asphalt of the lowest grade that dissolves after a couple of hours' rain, resulting in potholes that make the area look in parts like a close-up of the Sea of Tranquility, or a zoom-out of a giant *sungka*. Bad roads abuse car tires. Car tires cost. Who cares?

The Sucat-Alabang service road was passable in the time of Cory, fell into disrepair during FVR, dug in the short term of Erap, a sorry, non-glorious eyesore now in the reign of Gloria.

It is announced from Makati in two ways: a highway sign that reads "Sucat exit, 300 meters," and by traffic that builds up 200 meters before the 300-meter sign.

There are four tollgates: One is for e-pass holders only, the others for e-pass/cash, e-pass/exact change. The e-pass lane used to be the honesty lane in the halcyon days of one-peso toll fees, a tender mercy cancelled out when the unscrupulous threw in stones and bottle caps instead of one-peso coins.

They are presumably the same *kapalmuks* who don't have e-pass yet confidently use the e-pass-only gate and harass toll operators to let them through.

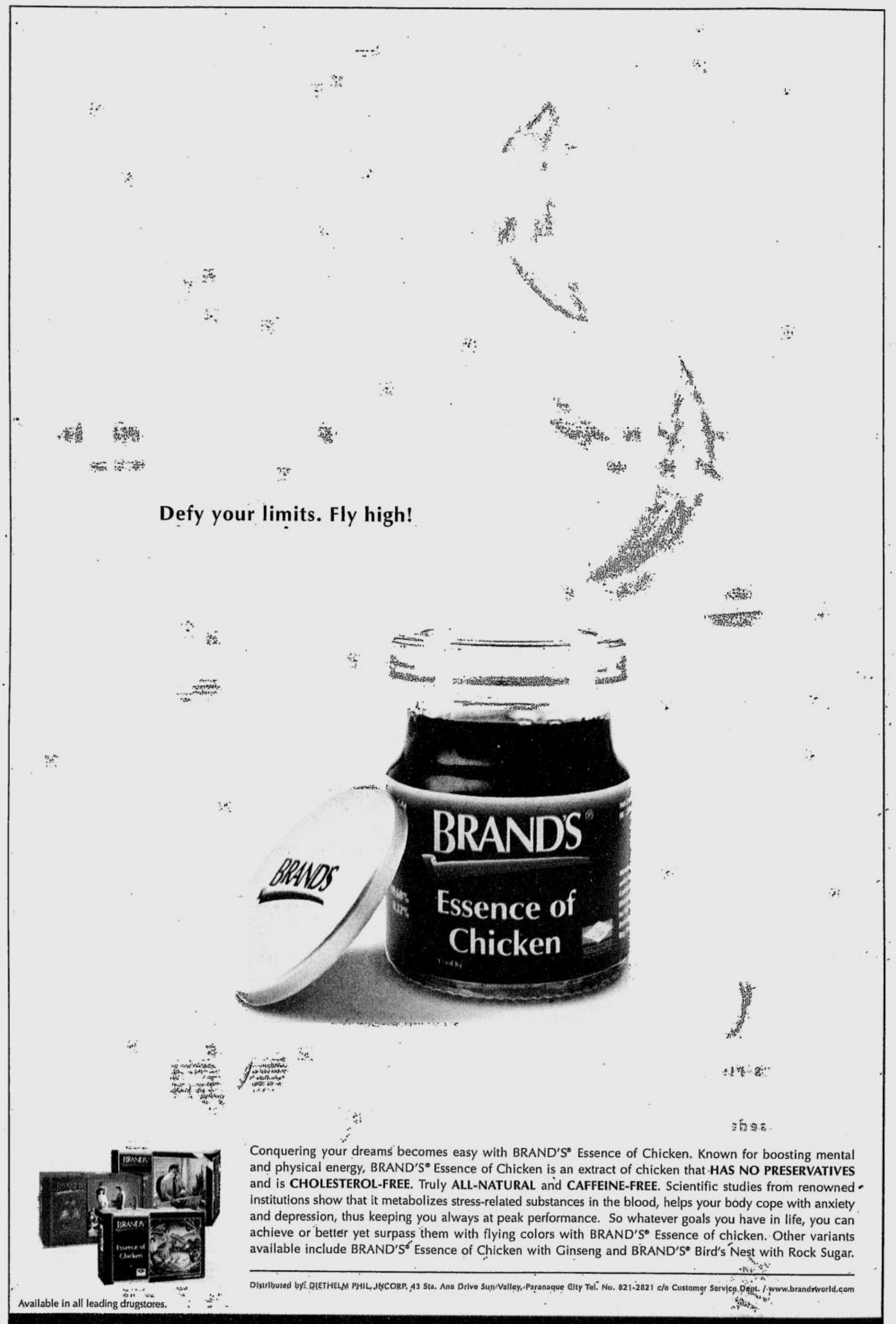
One motorist

Out of the tollgates comes an avalanche of vehicles from the left and right of Sucat proper, the three other gates, and the Bicutan-Sucat service road.

A man sits back in his driver's seat and waits for a flashback of his life to occur in a series of quick cuts in his mind. It doesn't take place, he knows he's going to survive the junction. He drives across at the same time wondering why the United Coconut Planters Bank sits in that corner and cannot be asked to go.

He almost makes the mistake of meeting northbound cars and jeeps but is saved by the sudden appearance of some three Godzilla-size buses that cut in from his right to load/unload passengers right there and then. He swerves to the right, misses a vendor running to give an FX driver on the other side a glass of coffee, curses, then

OF SERVICE/ A23



Lining up at the NSO until the wee hours

BY AGNES DONATO

IF YOU'RE planning to get any document from the National Statistics Office, you would be well advised to bring a sleeping bag and prepare to wait until the wee hours for your paper's release.

But for P150 to P300, you can jump the long line of bureaucracy and probably even get a good night's sleep at home.

Adju Quinones said he filed a request to claim the birth certificate of a relative on Oct. 5 and was told to come back on Oct. 17 so he could claim it.

Quinones said that on Thursday afternoon, he lined up for hours to get a queue number, a small card bearing the number which an NSO employee would call to summon an applicant to the window, and he was shocked when he was handed queue number B3157.

By that time, he said, the number being called was only around 1500.

"So I went home first and came back about 6 p.m.," he said. "I did not expect to stay there until 3 a.m. just to get a birth certificate."

But while there were no fixers promising people faster processing of their papers in exchange for money, Quinones said he was repeatedly approached by men selling lower queue numbers for P150 to P300.

"The lower the queue number, the more expensive it is, of course," Quinones said.

Lourdes Hufana, civil registry coordinator, explained that the NSO started computerizing its system only last Sept. 28 and was still making some adjustments.

Hufana said the agency was expecting the system to normalize by Oct. 25. She asked the public for more understanding.

"The NSO receives about 13,000 applications everyday, but we are trying to serve all these by working 24 hours," the official said.

She, however, issued a stern warning to NSO employees who might be involved in the selling of lower queue numbers, who she said could lose their jobs or get jailed if they would be caught.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Casa y Jardin, the Christmas bazaar of the Catholic Women's Club, will be held again at the Peninsula Manila, Rigodon Ballroom, tomorrow, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the club's more than 80 charities. On sale will be a limited edition glass etching entitled "El Musiko," especially designed by National Artist Arturo Luz for the CWC's 80th anniversary. Also on sale will be the limited-edition plate "Mother & Child" series, featuring this year's artist Bencab with his "Mag-ina." Above are CWC officers and members (front row, from left) Pilie Aquino, co-chair Nikki Valerio, Linda Villadelgado; (second row) Maricar Sobrepeña, Terry Tambunting, chair Fanny Blanco, Joey Sobrepeña; (third row) Lita Gelano, Inma Mutuc, and Christine Hernandez.

Of service . . .

(From page A22)

inches his way down.

Southbound, he sees a long line of vehicles going the opposite way. He remembers having been stuck there earlier in the day on his way to work; a factory worker had been hit by a private jeepney that skidded on flat steel sheets laid out on the road to cover an excavation.

Same route

Someone else sighs beside him, remembering the same thing. He looks at her, his wife.

She'd been silent the whole trip. He reaches out to touch her, she smiles wanly at him. They'd been to hell, and back.

They plan, as they always do, not to take service road pain out on each other. But tomorrow, someone's car tire, if not theirs, will puncture on one of the potholes. A factory truck is going to make a U-turn, the driver technically not violating the truck ban, just parking on factory property along the service road.

Jeeps shall stay put in front of other factories further down until they are loaded. Maynilad or some other utility company is sure to dig up. The hills of garbage are growing into mounds of mini-Payatas. It is going to rain.

Husband and wife will take the same route for the rest of their lives. Like a service road, so will their marriage be. One in name, no longer in nature.

A marriage kept only for convenience, for the sake of children who will find their wanting to separate unacceptable until they find themselves on the same road, 240 times, twice a day, in a year.

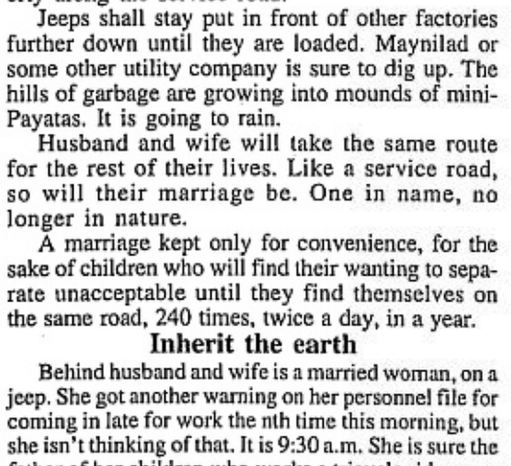
Inherit the earth

Behind husband and wife is a married woman, on a jeep. She got another warning on her personnel file for coming in late for work the nth time this morning, but she isn't thinking of that. It is 9:30 a.m. She is sure the father of her children who works a tricycle ride away from home hasn't cooked because of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"; her children are hungry.

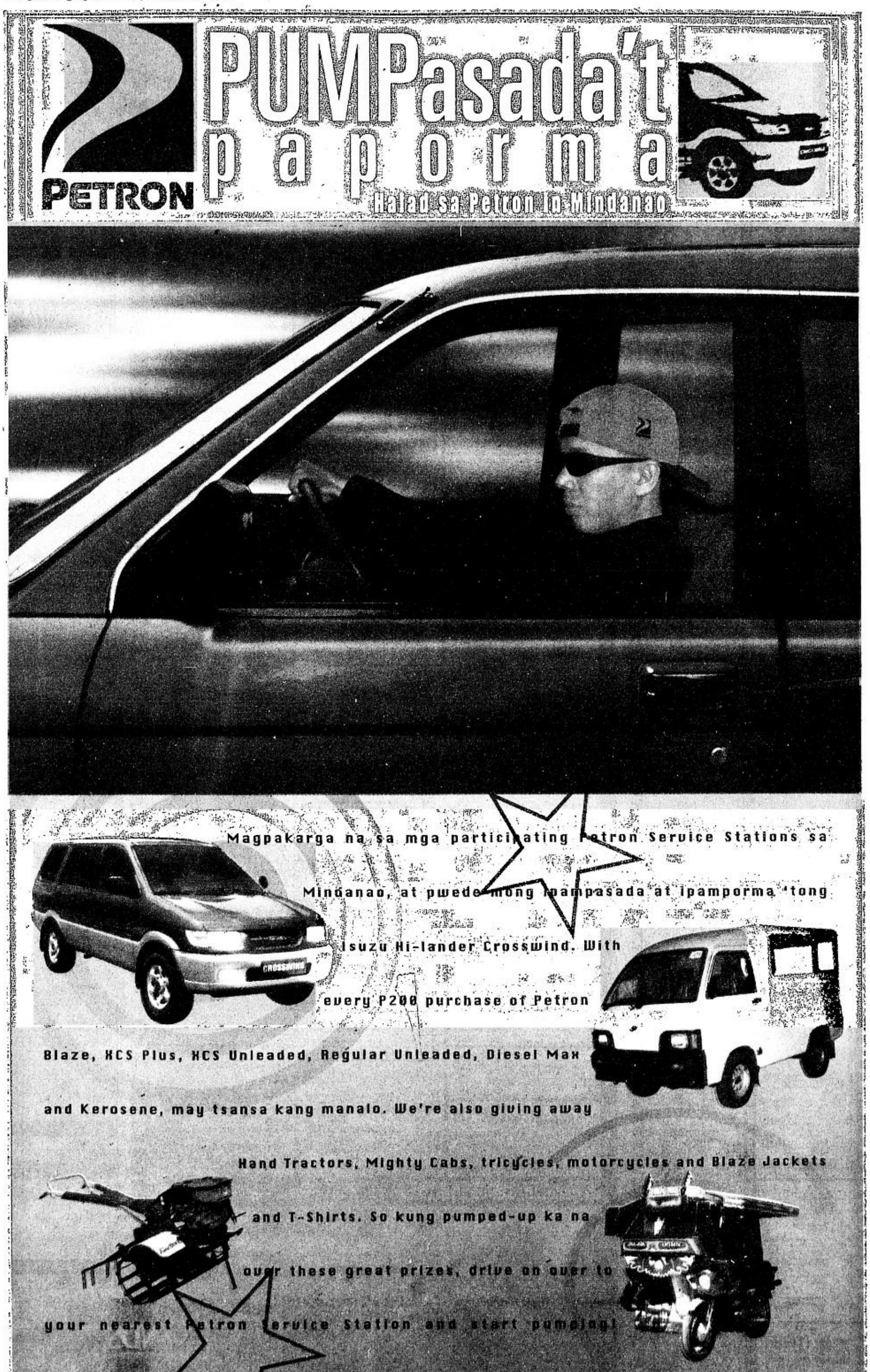
Like the family in the instant noodle commercial, her very own waits for her to arrive and prepare their meal. The woman smiles, grateful for the invention of instant noodles that has made life easier for working mothers like her.

The jeepney driver cuts husband and wife in the car. The woman catches a glimpse of them. She wonders why they are sad. Has someone told the missus of instant noodles?

Blessed are the poor, for they will inherit the earth. Mostly service roads.



GARBAGE hills grow along the service roads.



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8 SISID

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2 13 DAYS
3 THE BODY
4 EXTREME FORCE
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6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
8 FAST & FURIOUS
9 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10 THE HOLE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1 FAST & FURIOUS
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 THE HOLE
4 AMERICAN PIE 2
5 13 DAYS
6 MANANABAS
7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 THE BODY
9 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
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11 SISID
12 NAKED NIGHTS

SM CITY MANILA 5239249

1 THE BODY
2 13 DAYS
3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 AMERICAN PIE 2
5 THE HOLE
6 FAST & FURIOUS
7 EXTREME FORCE
8 PRINCESS DIARIES
9 MANANABAS
10 NAKED NIGHTS
11 AMERICAN PIE 2
12 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

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2 13 DAYS
3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
5 THE BODY
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8 AMERICAN PIE 2
9 MANANABAS
10 FAST & FURIOUS
11 THE HOLE
12 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

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2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 THE BODY
4 MANANABAS

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2 NAKED NIGHTS
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4 EXTREME FORCE
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7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 AMERICAN PIE 2
9 THE HOLE
10 13 DAYS
11 PRINCESS DIARIES
12 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART

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2 13 DAYS
3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 MANANABAS
5 THE HOLE
6 EXTREME FORCE
7 CLOSED
8 THE BODY
9 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10 NAKED NIGHTS

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8829905

1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 MANANABAS
3 NAKED NIGHTS

SM CEBU 2313876

1 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
2 ORIGINAL SIN
3 PRINCESS DIARIES
4 YOUNG WARLOCK
5 MARITAL RAPE
6 MANANABAS
7 FAST & FURIOUS

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1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 CLOSED
3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 MANANABAS
5 PRINCESS DIARIES
6 ORIGINAL SIN
7 CLOSED
8 SISID

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1 13 DAYS
2 OSMOSIS JONES
3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 MARITAL RAPE
6 MANANABAS

SM SUCAT 8204975

1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 MANANABAS
3 AMERICAN PIE 2
4 THE BODY

SM DAVAO

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4 THE BODY

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2 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 AMERICAN PIE 2 THX — In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ABOUT ADAM (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5 TOWN & COUNTRY (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 AMERICAN PIE 2 — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 THIRTEEN DAYS — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 THE BODY — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 THIRTEEN DAYS — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 AMERICAN PIE 2 — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MOCCA JAYA LIVE! OCT. 19 & 26 9PM/ MITCH VALDEZ GOLDEN GIRL...DIVAH? OCT. 20 & 27 9PM — Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1 AMERICAN PIE 2 THX — In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 THE BODY — In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 OSMOSIS JONES — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 THIRTEEN DAYS — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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4 GOLD (DTS) AMERICAN PIE 2
5 GOLD (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2
6 GOLD (SDDS) 13 DAYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE BODY
8 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9 MANANABAS
10 NAKED NIGHTS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1
2 LAST ERUPTION
3 (DTS) MANANABAS
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 2000
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1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 MANANABAS
3 NAKED NIGHTS

starmall Movies
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1 MANANABAS
2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 THE BODY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) AMERICAN PIE 2
5 NAKED NIGHTS

METROPOLIS star
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1 NAKED NIGHTS
2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 MANANABAS
4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 SISID
6 THE BODY
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to 13

1 AMERICAN PIE 2

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 KNIGHT'S TALE
2 MARITAL RAPE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1
2 MANANABAS
3 NAKED NIGHTS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 NEW FIST OF FURY
A NAKED NIGHTS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 MANANABAS
2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) MANANABAS
2
3
4
5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6 NAKED NIGHTS
7 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE 2
8 (SDDS) EXTREME FORCE
9 (DOLBY) THE BODY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 MANANABAS

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 MANANABAS
3 MANANABAS
4 (SDDS) SISID
5 NAKED NIGHT
6 (DOLBY) EXTREME FORCE
7 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE 2
8
9

Commonwealth
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1 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS
3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 RESERVE
5 (SDDS) THE BODY
6 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7 (DOLBY) RESERVE
8 RESERVE

Ortigas
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1 MANANABAS
2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE 2
4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 (SDDS)

Universal
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1 MANANABAS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 MANANABAS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson SIN OF THE NIGHT
Lords NAKED NIGHTS
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 MANANABAS
3 NAKED NIGHTS

Prima
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3 MANANABAS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY) MANANABAS
2 THE BODY
3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 AMERICAN PIE 2
5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 NAKED NIGHTS
2 MANANABAS
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4
5
6

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)
2 MANANABAS
3 NAKED NIGHTS

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 MANANABAS
2 NAKED NIGHTS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 MANANABAS
2 NAKED NIGHTS
3
4

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 MANANABAS
2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 MANANABAS
2 (DTS) SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2
4 NAKED NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 MANANABAS
2 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS) OSMOSIS JONES
4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 PRINCESS DIARIES
2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) MANANABAS
2 NAKED NIGHTS
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 (DTS) THE NEW FIST OF FURY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2
2 MANANABAS
3 (DTS) OSMOSIS JONES
4 NAKED NIGHTS
5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 MANANABAS
2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 NAKED NIGHTS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1 MANANABAS
2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 NAKED NIGHTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1 ST. FRANCISVILLE
2 SISID
3 OSMOSIS JONES

Morales Cinema
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1 OSMOSIS JONES
2 MANANABAS
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) MANANABAS
2 (DTS) NAKED NIGHTS

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 SISID
2 MANANABAS
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MARITAL RAPE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 SISID

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) MARITAL RAPE
2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 RESERVE
4 (DTS EX) THE HOLE

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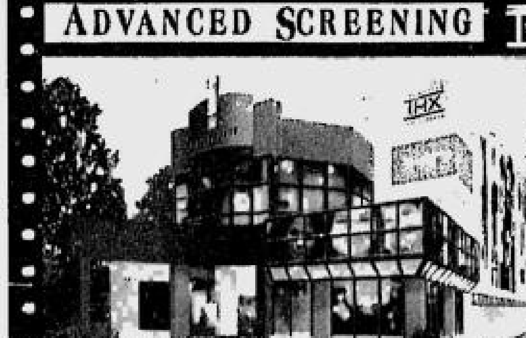
ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



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6 AMERICAN PIE 2
7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9 MANANABAS
10 NAKED NIGHTS

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 EXTREME FORCE
3 13 DAYS
4 MANANABAS
5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7 THE BODY

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1 RESERVE
2 MANANABAS
3 NAKED NIGHTS
4 MANANABAS
5 AMERICAN PIE 2
6 RESERVE
7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 THE BODY

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 13 DAYS
3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 THE BODY
5 MANANABAS
6 NAKED NIGHTS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
2 PRINCESS DIARIES
3 ORIGINAL SIN
4 FAST & FURIOUS
5 MARITAL RAPE
6 LAST ERUPTIONS

SOON TO OPEN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	VENUS / FEMALE ANIMAL
ODEON	MANANABAS
ODEON-2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ROBEN	NAKED NIGHTS
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SCREAM ... FRIDAY THE 13TH / DR. DOOLITTLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	NAKED NIGHTS
REMAR	MANANABAS
REMAR-2	NAKED NIGHTS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	AMERICAN PIE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SISID
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	THE HOLE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MANANABAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-2	THE BODY
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	VENUS
CINEMA-2	VENGADOR
CINEMA-4	MAGDALENO ORBOS

Manila Science homecoming

THE MANILA Science High School Alumni Foundation Inc. is inviting all Manila Science High School (MSHS) alumni to the grand alumni homecoming 2001 today, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m.

The affair, which will be held at the school compound on Taft Avenue corner Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila, is a co-celebration with this year's silver jubilarians, the members of Batch 1976.

Among the homecoming activities are the blessing and launching of the alumni foundation's marker and web site, recognition of outstanding alumni, the reading of the report by foundation president lawyer Melvin Miranda (Batch 1972), and musical numbers by a popular band.

For more information, visit the alumni's web site at www.masci-alumni.org.ph, or call foundation treasurer Zenith Viceral at 456-0212 and (0917) 492-2126, or deputy secretary Che Prudente at 742-5607 and (0919) 325-5351.

Andanians meeting

THE ANDANIANS Association Inc. (AAI), an organization of natives of Anda, Pangasinan and their relatives residing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, will hold a meeting today at the residence of Johnny Tejano on Molave Street, Blk. 19, Lot 14, Greenfields Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Jessie Panit, AAI president, said the meeting is the continuation of the meeting held recently at the residence of Anda Mayor Alice Jimenez-Pulido in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Panit said all Andanians from all walks of life are welcome to attend the meeting so they can meet their relatives, friends and make new acquaintances.

Among those to be discussed in the meeting are projects like the construction of a cottage in a beach front in Barangay Tondol, a waiting shed, fund-raising activities and the Miss Anda candidate for the town fiesta in April.

Andanians can contact Mayor Pulido at 939-9651; Panit at 912-0511/913-2373; Rose Calicdan at 417-2991; Tejano at 936-0345/725-2016; Harry Cativo, at 527-8421 c/o People's Journal; and Eli Canta at (046) 571-0001/0917-649-1082.

Rotary blitz

THE ROTARY Club of Makati Forbes Park will launch a "Red Light Blitz" on Saturday, Oct. 20, 2001 from 7 a.m to 9 a.m, along the stretch of Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia) from Edsa to South Superhighway where traffic enforcers will apprehend any traffic violators at that time.

The project will be implemented in cooperation with the Office of the Mayor—Makati City, Makati City Police Station, Makati Traffic Enforcement Unit, Mapsa, MMDA and Citizens Traffic Action.

The undertaking aims to educate motorists to obey traffic regulations. Noted businessmen, Rotarians, government officials will be on hand to ensure the success of this activity.

'State of emergency'? Don't panic

BY JOEY C. PAPA

MALACAÑANG announced a "state of emergency" on garbage.

Earlier, it also declared a "garbage crisis" and a "garbage disaster."

Farmers in Rodriguez (Montalban) town in Rizal, where the government chose to dump Metro Manila's garbage, feel that some people in government are just pressing the panic button to justify the use of incinerators being peddled by foreign companies and their local counterparts.

Incinerators are millions of dollars worth of foreign technology using the burn system for all kinds of garbage — from biodegradable and recyclable waste to toxic, hazardous, and hospital wastes. Incinerators emit furans and dioxin, a component of Agent Orange which is known to be an extremely potent cancer-causing chemical. The US government used Agent Orange to spray the villages in North Vietnam, killing thousands of people.

The peddlers of foreign technology are also pushing for the establishment of sanitary or offshore landfills cum dumpsites which also cost millions of dollars and require the use of hundreds of hectares of land or sea.

But why panic? There is an immediate solution to the garbage problem, which we in the zero waste recycling movement of the Philippines, the Bangon Kalikasan Movement, and other genuine environmental groups are espousing.

The sustainable solution is to exhaust all possibilities for composting and recycling waste, as mandated in the Ecological Solid Waste Republic Act (Republic Act No. 9003). Remember that the bulk of the waste comes from households and establishments and most of these can be composted and recycled.

Heart and will

Materials recovery facilities or ecological (Eco) centers, as also mandated by RA 9003, can be set up fast enough if the mayors, barangay captains, and other local executives have the heart and will do it in all the cities, municipalities and communities to immediately solve the garbage crisis. The MRF or eco-center system provides for systematic sorting and segregating of biodegradable waste from non-biodegradable waste and for composting biodegradable waste and recycling non-biodegradable waste by sending this back to the factories.

Compost and organic fertilizer can boost the production of food and other plants and enhance degraded land. Non-biodegradable waste sent back to the factory can serve as a continuing source of manufacturing materials.

The authorities must be aware of these possibilities, as some of them are saying so in TV plugs. Why then do they continue to push for landfills and incinerators? Why not wisely use limited government funds, complemented with a citizen's workforce, to set up all the necessary MRFs and conduct massive information and education campaigns, train all households, communities, institutions, commercial and industrial establishments to reduce, sort, segregate, re-use, compost, recycle waste?

10 fingers

We generate waste right inside our houses but we can also prevent these from turning into garbage right inside our houses and therefore help prevent a social problem. If your 10 fingers cause waste to be generated, these same 10 fingers should also turn the waste into useful resource by segregating the biodegradable from the non-biodegradable.

Biodegradable wastes are food leftovers, fruit and vegetable peelings or trims, fish and fowl entrails, egg shells, shrimps, crabs, mussels, clams, seeds, bones, leaves, flowers, weeds, twigs, branches, grass, wood shavings, human and animal hair, fur, nail clippings, toilet paper, other small pieces of used and wet paper, disposable diapers and sanitary napkins, animal and human waste, dead animals.

Non-biodegradable wastes are plastics, cans, metals, glass (whole or broken), styrofoam, rubber, dry paper, cardboard, dry cloth or fiber, bones, shells, bonded or blended composites, toxic and hazardous wastes such as used machine oil, acid, chemicals, paints, dyes, dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs, etc.

Composting

Composting involves processing biodegradable waste with soil, sunlight, air, and some water. The action of these elements together plus that of bacteria and other microbe will turn the biowaste into compost which is a soil conditioner. This can be further enhanced with activators to turn the compost into organic fertilizer if desired.

As for recycling, Filipinos are not new to this practice. We are very creative and skillful and can turn all sorts of materials into useful products.

Luz Sabas, pioneer in the ecological zero waste management system in the country, founder of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines Foundation Inc., and mentor of all the ecological waste management practitioners and groups, advocates the use of local, low-cost, labor-generating, and life-sustaining and life-enhancing technologies in addressing the issue of waste.

(Comments and inquiries may be sent to bangon_kalikasan@skyinet.net)

Trash collection will continue, says City Hall

BY JEROME ANING

ALTHOUGH the Metro Manila Development Authority has declared a "state of emergency" in the National Capital Region due to the worsening garbage crisis, the Manila city government yesterday assured residents that garbage collection would continue on a regular basis.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said City Hall continues to collect garbage on a daily basis and is still able to keep trash off the streets.

But he said he is worried about the garbage accumulating at the city's temporary dumpsite at Pier 18 at the North Harbor.

"Although the situation at Pier 18 is still manageable, it could reach a critical level if remedial measures are not undertaken soon," Atienza told reporters during his weekly news conference at City Hall.

The garbage dumped at Pier 18 is growing and residents and business owners from nearby communities are complaining about the stench coming from the site, as well as the return of the scavengers.

The mayor said the garbage crisis was the result of a string of events such as the closure of the San Mateo landfill, the court injunction on the proposed landfill on Semirara Island and the passage of the Clean Air Act, which bans the use of incinerators.

These developments, he said, "have tied the hands of the MMDA" so most local government units in the metropolis are doing their best to remedy the situation.

Manila hopes the garbage problem is addressed in the "most effective and quickest manner possible," Atienza said.

He also renewed his call to allow the use of "pollution-free" incinerators as a long-term solution to the garbage crisis.

He said he and other city and municipal mayors in Metro Manila are urging Congress to amend the Clean Air Act as soon as possible to allow the use of incinerators.

He said developed cities such as Singapore and Sydney use pollution-free incinerators as the primary means of safely disposing of waste materials after segregating them for recycling or composting.

"This is a better alternative to the perennial search for dumpsite," Atienza said. "Although we have identified new landfill areas, this is a short-term measure that might not be sufficient to address the problem."

He said pollution-free incinerators would be used to safely dispose of waste that are not recyclable and non-biodegradable.

Atienza said Manila has established a system for the segregation, recycling and composing of garbage with the help of non-government organizations and barangays. The city even has set up its own composting plant.

Inquirer paper . . .

(From page A20)

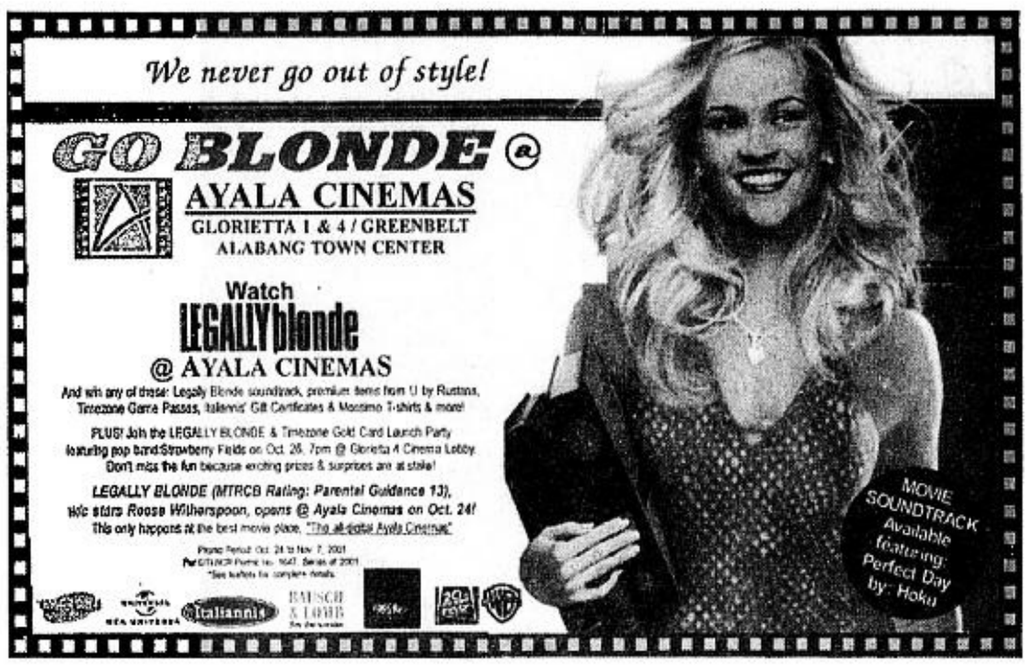
A three-year report for the Metro Manila Development Authority by the Japan International Cooperation Agency reveals that of Metro Manila's total garbage output, only 4 percent are recycled, 6 percent are disposed by residents within their own homes, while the remaining are discarded outside the home.

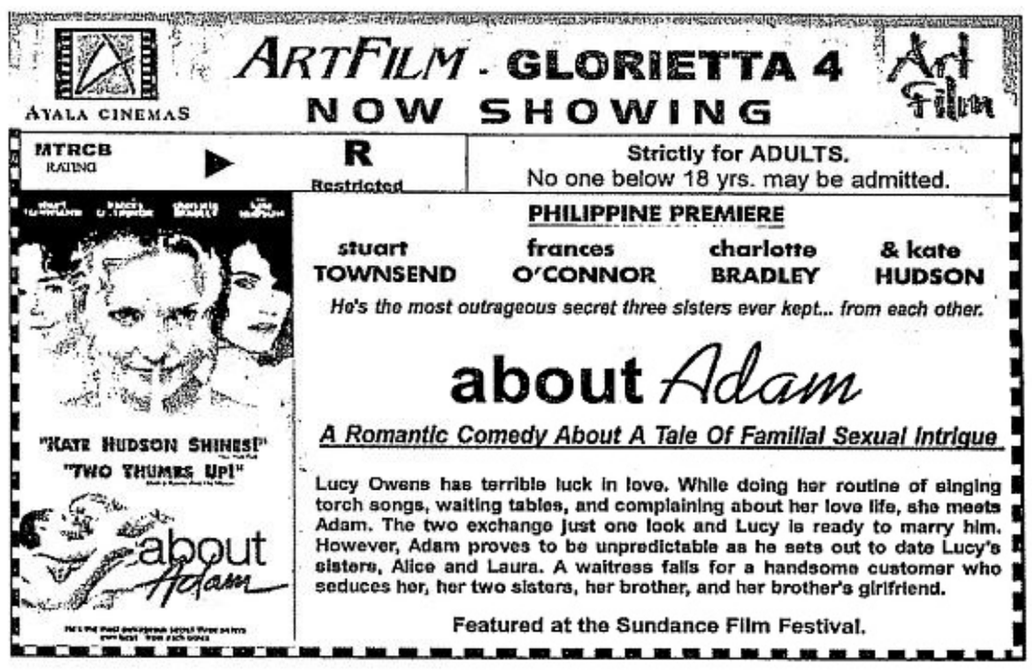
Of the 90 percent that goes out, 35 percent are dumped illegally on vacant lots, sidewalks, canals, or rivers.

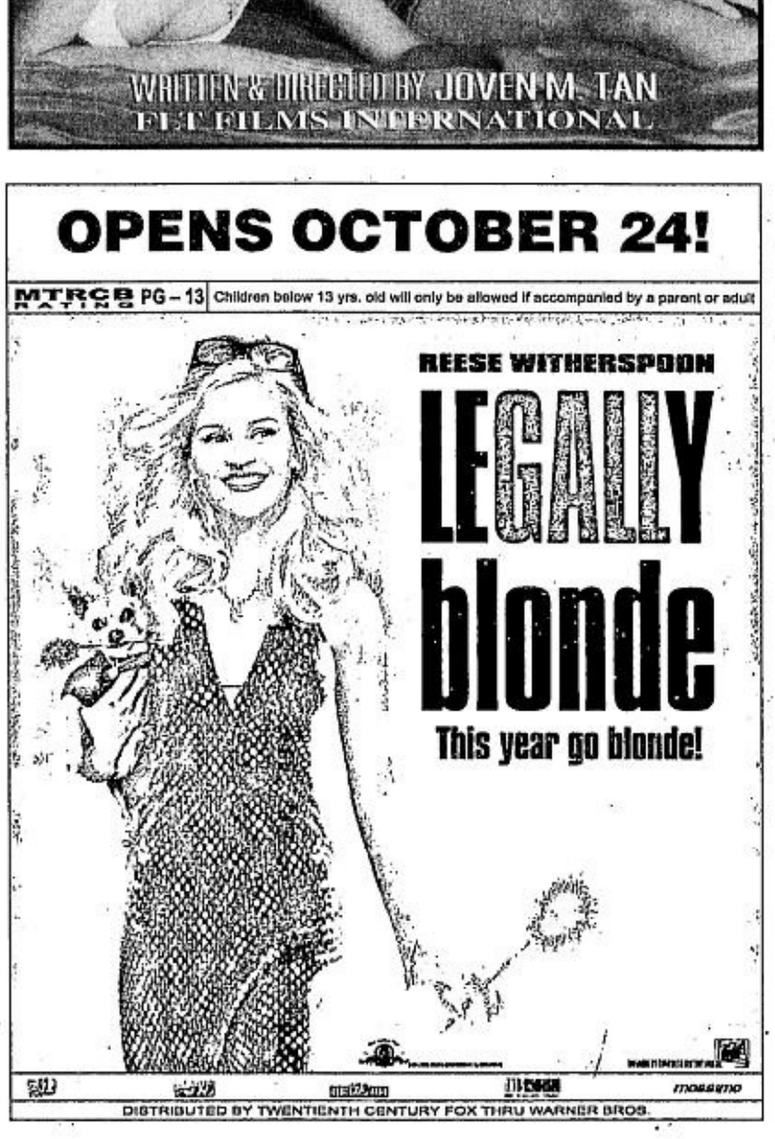
While the INQUIRER has made an effort to help reduce environmental pollutants through the use of 100 percent recycled newsprint and soy-based inks, these efforts have not been enough to address the country's various environmental problems. INQUIRER's New Paper Drive aims to augment existing efforts to reduce the use of virgin pulp and encourage proper waste management in the country.

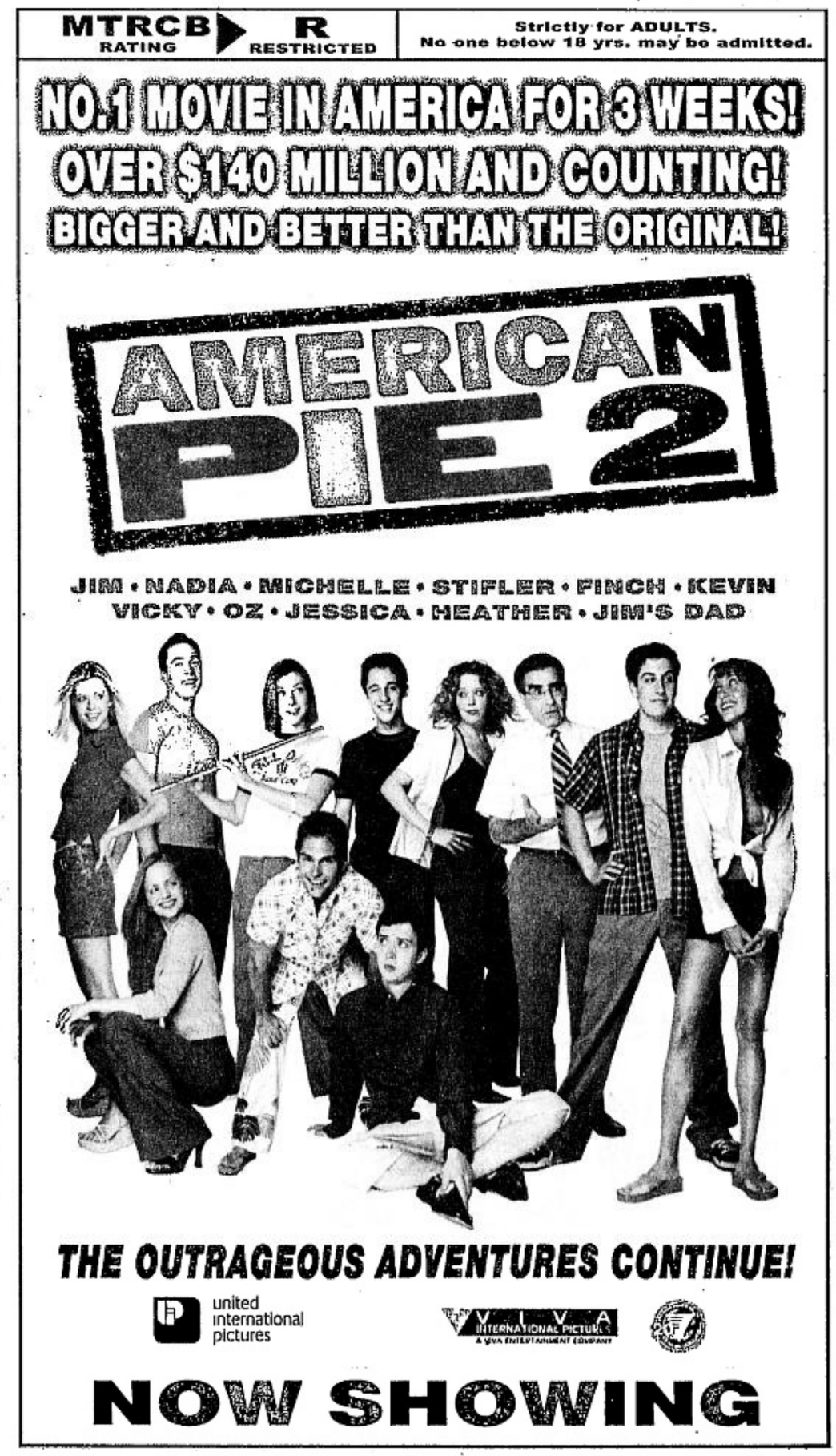
INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez expressed her gratitude to readers and institutions who joined the drive: "Thank you to everyone who participated in our campaign. Although the drive is now over, we are hoping people will continue to think about recycling.

"See you next year!"









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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Imports continue to weaken in August

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S imports shrunk for the second consecutive month in August as the global economic slowdown continued to dampen domestic demand for foreign-made goods and raw materials.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the country's payment for imports dropped by 2.2 percent to $2.58 billion from $2.64 billion in August last year.

The downtrend started last July when the import bill dropped by a slight 0.6 percent, a turnaround after three months of expansion.

Analysts said the import deterioration would further worsen for the rest of the year starting September due to ripples from the terrorist attacks on the United States. The uncertainties have made domestic manufacturers even more cautious about producing goods due to weak demand from both local and foreign buyers.

As exports for August also contracted by 25.7 percent to $2.62 billion, the worst decline seen since the debt crisis years of the 1980s, the country still managed to end the month with a modest surplus of $37 million.

From January to August this year, the country still yielded a cumulative trade surplus of $704 million, although this was 81-percent lower than the surplus during the same period last year. Since the start of 2001, exports and imports have now both slowed down by 13 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively.

Payments for raw materials/intermediate goods and capital goods, the two items which accounted for the bulk of the month's import bill, fell by 3.5 percent and 9.8 percent, respectively.

Raw materials and intermediate goods, consisting of unprocessed raw materials and semi-processed raw materials, accounted for 38.7 percent or $1 billion of the total bill. On the other hand, capital goods—led by telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery—accounted for 36.7 percent or $948.2 million.

In terms of specific products, electronics and components, which accounted for 19.6 percent of the total bill, stood almost unchanged at $506.9 million from $506.14 million last year.

Japan and the United States remained the country's top sources of imports, accounting for 20 percent and 16.4 percent of the total bill. Other major sources were South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, People's Republic of China, Thailand and Malaysia.

ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Luz Lorenzo noted that the slowdown in imports was almost across the board except for consumer goods and mineral fuels, lubricants and related items.

But Lorenzo explained that while purchases of consumer goods were still growing year-on-year, the growth had started to slow down since July.

On the other hand, she noted that the rise in imports of mineral fuels and lubricants during the month was triggered by the increase in the prices of crude oil.

"This means that domestic demand remains weak and it will continue to weaken because of what happened last Sept. 11," Lorenzo said.

She said she expected the demand even for consumer goods and mineral fuels to slow down during the rest of the year, specially in the case of mineral fuels as oil prices have gone down.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the growth momentum in the second quarter as indicated by the import expansion during the period had been reversed.

On top of the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, he said imports were likely to fall by about 14 percent in September, coming from a high base in the same period last year.

"The crisis at hand doesn't give a promising outlook. We are writing off any hopes of recovery for the rest of the year," Vistan said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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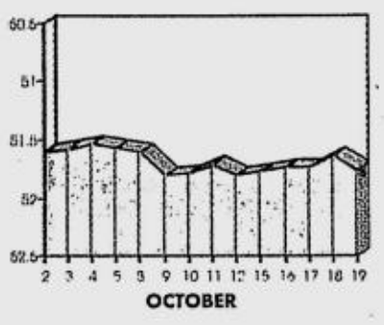


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

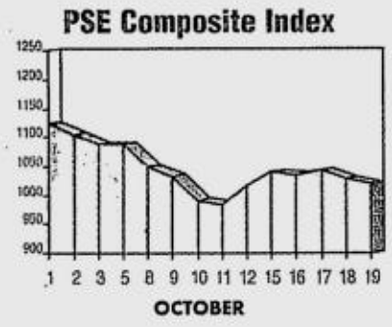
₱ 51.76 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 19, 2001

¥ 121.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 19, 2001

GOLD:$278.20/278.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 19, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Shares down

SHARES finished lower yesterday, weighed down by concern over a bleak economic outlook, uninspiring third-quarter corporate earnings, and peace-and-order problems, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 8.96 points, or 0.9 percent, at 1019.44, adding to a 1.4-percent decline Thursday.

Index heavyweight San Miguel "B" was the most active, down 50 centavos, or 1.2 percent, at P43.

Investors are worried San Miguel's desire to adjust its purchase price for soft sdrink maker Cosmos Bottling, which has been valued at P15 billion, may further delay the acquisition. The sale was to have been signed mid-October.

Traders said the market showed resilience amid a bearish environment.

"It seems most investors are trying to pick a bottom for the market at this point by trying to support big cap stocks because most of them have been battered for quite awhile and are trading at oversold levels," said A&A Securities analyst Don Malabanan. *AP*

Ramcar allots P750M for modernization

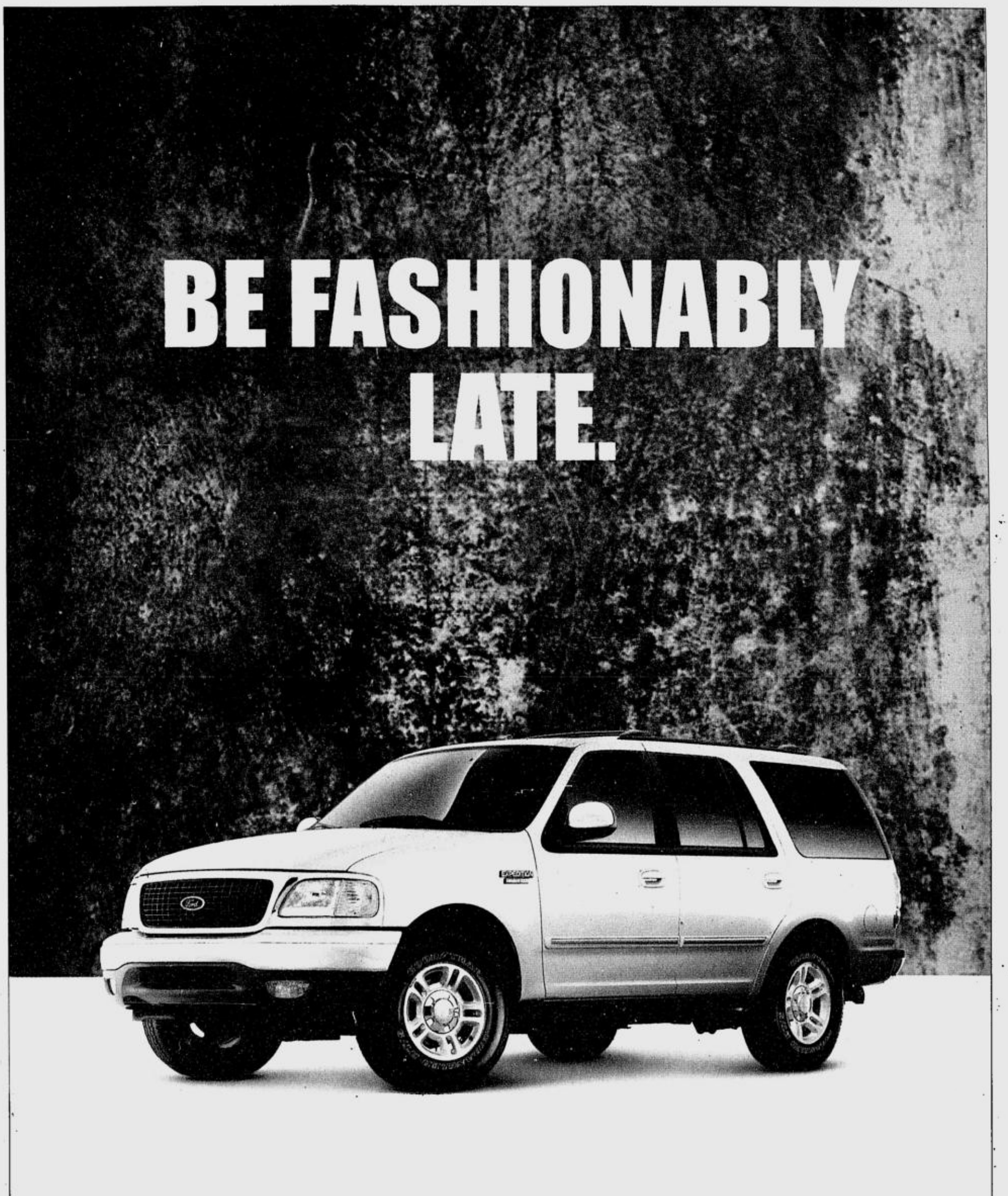
The Ramcar Battery Group said it would invest P750 million to accelerate its battery plant modernization program and strengthen its local distribution network. The company said it needed these additional investments prior to the removal of protective tariffs in 2003.

It also announced that it was negotiating a standstill agreement with its creditor banks prior to working out a restructuring of its debt.

Roberto V. Garcia, Ramcar Battery Group president, said he was optimistic about the restructuring because Ramcar shareholders were contributing additional assets worth at least P6.5 billion. These assets will be offered to the creditors as payment for Ramcar's loans under a proposed debt-for-asset swap to reduce its total debt burden of P8 billion to less than P2 billion.

He said several banks have already indicated their agreement in principle to this scheme.

Upon completion of its modernization program, Ramcar said it would be the most modern automotive battery manufacturer in Southeast Asia and the most efficient in terms of quality and cost. The company exports about 40 percent of its total production and plans to export 70 percent of its production after completion of its modernization program.



Finance chief douses cold water on debt relief talks

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday doused cold water on suggestions that the country seek some form of relief from its debts, saying such a move would jeopardize the government's foreign borrowings and jack up interest rates.

"Debt relief is not a practical option, unless it was voluntarily offered by creditors," Camacho told reporters.

He was reacting to reports quoting President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying that the country was considering seeking some form of relief from its creditors.

The President was quoted out of context, he said.

Camacho warned that inaccurate reports about the Philippines considering debt relief as an economic remedy would dampen the appetite of foreign creditors for the country's debt instruments.

"News of a debt relief would definitely scare lenders because why would you lend to a country that is already considering not paying its debts?" he said.

In the pipeline are at least $800 million worth of borrowings from Japan's and Singapore's debt markets.

Traders said there was no indication that spreads of Philippine bonds were affected by Malacañang's debt relief statements.

Yesterday, the Bureau of Treasury said it would offer to individual investors next week at least P5 billion ($96.7 million) of old series Retail Treasury Bonds.

The paper will mature on Nov. 4, 2004.

The retail T-bonds were last offered on May 4, 2001 at a rate of 14.25 percent.

The institutional investors who will participate in the bookbuilding exercise will offer the retail T-bonds to individual investors from Oct. 22 to 26.

The reissuance of the retail T-bonds is part of the government's fund raising project to raise an additional P30 billion by the end of the year.

The other two plans were the offering of at least P10 billion of peso-linked notes and P10 billion of zero coupon bonds.

On Tuesday, the Treasury raised P10.17 billion by auctioning 10-year zero coupon bonds.

The only time that the country asked its creditors for a debt relief or a moratorium on its debts was during the '80s, when a series of political crises and military coups forced the domestic economy down on its knees.

FPI bucks tariff cut on 43 products

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries said yesterday that it would oppose the Department of Tourism's petition to grant zero duties on 43 products that it claimed were being manufactured adequately by local businessmen.

In a position paper submitted to the Tariff Commission and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, the FPI said the wish list drawn up by the tourism department for duty exemptions had tariff rates of 10 percent, 15 percent and 20 percent.

"These are clear indications that these products are locally produced," it said.

The FPI also asked the Tariff Commission to postpone the plan to cut duties on products that were locally produced but not in sufficient quantity.

The FPI said its members wanted more time to comb through the product list and determine whether it would have an impact on their operations.

Tourism officials wanted these products to have zero duties because these were apparently needed in the construction or operation of tourism facilities.

These products include refrigerators, freezers and air-conditioners; steel tanks; safe deposit boxes; steam boilers; pumps; bakery ovens; water heaters; purifiers; harvesting and milling machines; grinding and crushing machines; washing, drying and ironing machines; welding and cutting appliances; construction equipment; passenger and utility vehicles; cruise ships, motor boats and water sport equipment; golf and tennis equipment; and transformers, converters and circuit breakers. The DOT claimed that these products are capital equipment and parts used by tourism-oriented enterprises in their operations.

While these products were extensively used by the tourism industry, the FPI argued that their utilization was hardly limited for tourism facilities and it would be impossible to ensure that all products imported under the DOT exemption would be utilized outside the tourism industry.

SkyCable, Star talks over fees hit snag

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TALKS between cable TV leader Sky Vision Corp. and content provider Star TV Ltd. on cutting programming fees and settling around six months worth of unpaid charges have hit a snag.

SkyCable managing director Carlos Tria Jr. told the INQUIRER on Thursday that SkyCable was asking Star TV for reduced programming fees as the dollar had shot up against the peso since their last contract was first forged around two years ago.

Star TV, on the other hand, wanted to impose rates even higher than the ones it was charging SkyCable for two of its channels, National Geographic and Star Sports.

Tria said the two companies were "significantly apart" in their negotiations as Star TV was firm in its demand for higher rates.

"We can't even afford the current amount, yet they still want to impose higher rates. If we don't reach an agreement, we may no longer carry the two channels permanently," he said.

Tria said Star TV pulled out its National Geographic and Star Sports channels from SkyCable even though they were still engaged in negotiations.

Star TV earlier pulled out the two programs because of "a substantial amount" in programming fees that SkyCable was unable to remit.

An industry source revealed that the reason Star TV was not willing to settle was because SkyCable refused to give its repayment schedule to the program provider.

Tria admitted this, although he said this was because the cable company had yet to finish its business plan.

"We have to finish our business plan first. That's the only time when we could present a repayment schedule to both our creditor banks and our programmers," he said.

Tria disclosed that a possible solution to their financial problems would be to reduce the number of programs that SkyCable carried.

"It's one of the painful decisions that we have to make, unless we are able to negotiate reduced programming fees with our programmers," he said.

Leave happily ever after

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

MANNY Pangilinan just saved Piltel. This was the subsidiary of PLDT that ran into trouble over debts. The Piltel crisis almost crippled the banking system in a major default.

Now Piltel is regaining its financial health. Is it any gauge of Manny's knack for turning around a shaky business? Does Gloriaetta have a temper?

Manny must be crazy if, as rumors go, he now runs away from the problems of PLDT. The company is saddled with debts, and a big amount of them is maturing.

Rumors, thus, say the big boss in PLDT is about to leave the country. Evidence: He is trying to sell a lot of his group's interests in a lot of companies.

To me, it sounds like the plunder case of this cute administration against the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. It's too simplistic. Well, it's also crude.

* * *

FOR a long time, anyway, Manny was based in Hong Kong. It was there where he parlayed a small business into today's regional conglomerate, First Pacific.

They say it's, therefore, really easy for him to just pack up and leave. He will just go back to Hong Kong and live happily ever after. That simple, huh!

Unfortunately, for those whose job is to scratch their . . . whatever . . . the problems of PLDT are not unique to the firm. Other telephone companies have problems.

Bayantel is also in debt trouble. Digitel is still bleeding. Extelcom is buried deep in its own . . . you know what. Their problems stem from liberalization some years ago.

Don't look now, but similar problems happened in other countries that also liberalized their telecoms sectors. Too many companies fought for a limited market.

Based on the pattern in those countries, the industry must consolidate first before it can see better times. This is happening here now.

Precisely, Manny is selling assets to raise the money to turn around things. Does that sound to you like a guy who is running away? Does Cardinal Sin love Wrist Band?

* * *

ALL right, I may agree that Manny is nursing a broken heart. Ateneo lost to La Salle in the UAAP championship, and Manny is a diehard fan of the Blue Eagles.

But basketball is just about the only passion in Manny's life. His main recreation, I guess, is his work. He works Sundays. And even when he is sick.

That I know personally because, one time, I interviewed him on a Sunday, at 9 p.m., in his office in PLDT, and he had a fever.

His executives swear to me that Manny sends them text messages in the middle of the night. About work, of course, and not Erap or Gloriaetta jokes.

If any PLDT employee sends him an e-mail, they are certain to get an answer. Manny reads everything sent to him. Except perhaps when it has suspicious powder. *Nay!*

* * *

BUT from what I know about the man, he is not a quitter. He does not run away.

And that's what the rumors are saying. PLDT has problems, and so Manny is quitting.

Ironically, his groups' success in business precisely came from turning around losing problematic ventures. They were even called as "asset flippers."

So now Manny is running away from problems. Good golly, that's his job. He loves turning around things. It's his expertise. That's where he makes a lot of money.

Why do you think he brought into PLDT and its subsidiary, Smart Telecoms? So that they can have a little picnic every now and then?

The Japanese telecoms giant NTT invested some $800 million in those two companies. I don't know if NTT always invests in a company that is run by an ostrich. But it's so un-Japanese.

* * *

FOR everybody who knows Manny thinks of him as a man with a sense of mission. In only two years in PLDT, he changed it into a world player in telecoms.

I mean, PLDT is no longer my mother's PLDT years ago, when if you wanted a freaking telephone line, you even had to bribe somebody in the inside.

Its cellular subsidiary Smart is now the biggest in the country. In 1998, when PLDT got Smart, the company even had less subscribers than our subdivision newsletter.

And now Smart has tacked on an international award as most innovative cell phone company. To think, it was nowhere in the "texting" scene three years ago.

As for PLDT, well, it also got an award from the publication Euromoney as the "best-managed telco in Asia." In previous years, it was not even somewhere at the bottom

* * *

ANYWAY, Manny is the same guy who brought into the country about $2.3 billion in foreign investments in the past five years, both his and the groups he invited to come.

I don't think he is running away. He is just starting, forgodsakes. He wants this "convergence" thing for PLDT. That's why he went shopping for a lot of companies.

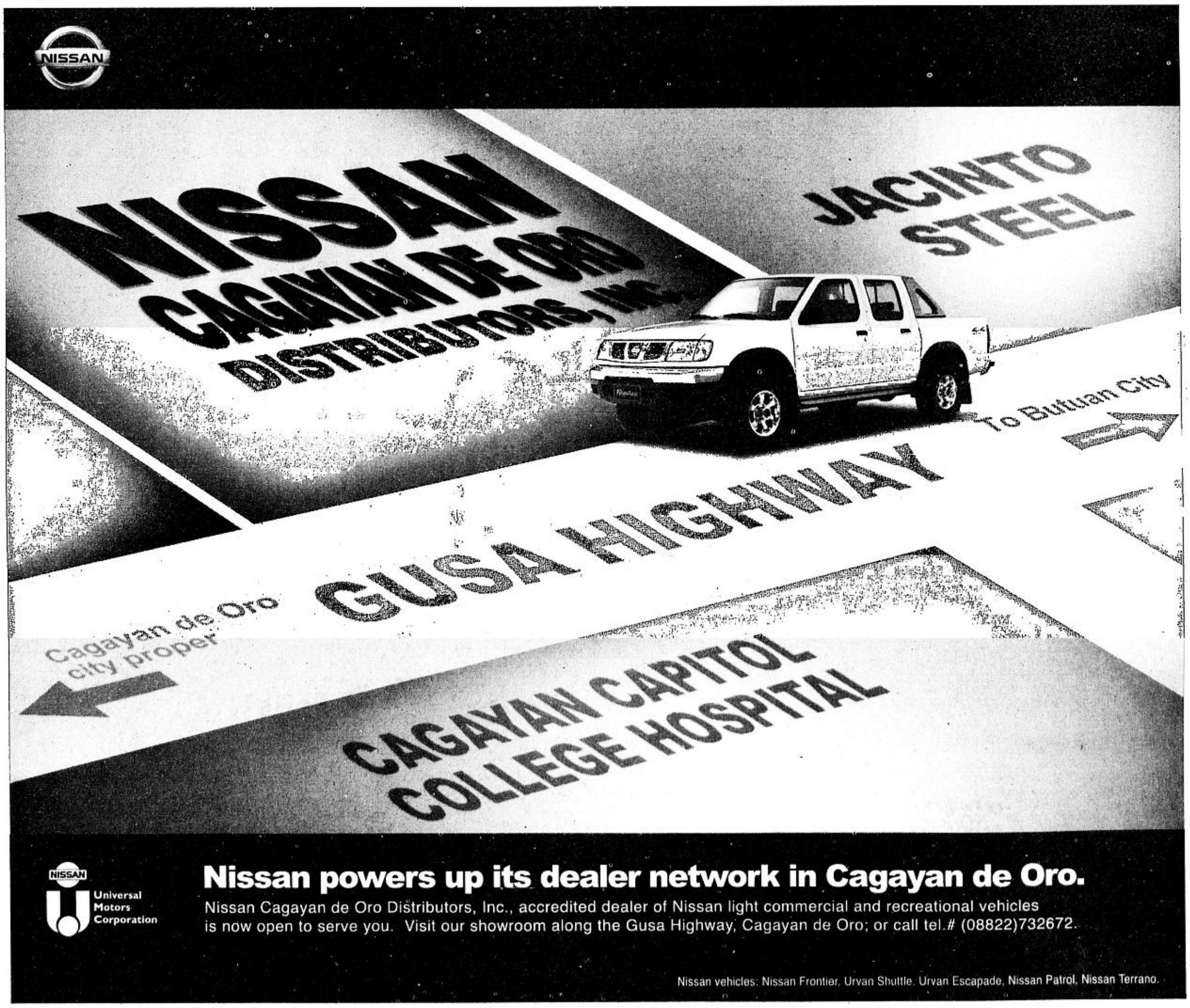
Look at the line-up of his acquisition. Home Cable. Mabuhay Satellite. Infocom. And maybe, soon, GMA-Channel 7. They tell me something is cooking.

Surely Manny thinks PLDT is worth saving. PLDT still has the biggest corporate cashflow in the country. As a business, minus the huge debts, it is doing well.

But even if Manny runs out of reasons to save PLDT, he still must do it. The company is in the best position, so far in the local business scene, to go for IT.

Precisely, it's Manny's vision. Convergence, as a PLDT strategy, did not happen by accident. Manny saw the future in it.

So will he be happy if he leaves now just when he is starting? Does Sen. Tessie Oreta have something against Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho?



Gov't urged to resume MRT talks

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

METRO Rail Transit Corp., builder of the MRT-3 project along Edsa, has urged the government to continue negotiations on the extension of the mass rail transport system from North Edsa to Monumento.

MRTC spokesperson Paul Daza yesterday reasoned that only five out of at least 62 issues that came up only late last week remained unresolved, and these were "resolvable in at least another 30 days."

He urged the DOTC to continue negotiating with them as this could "fast-track the Edsa MRT extension project in the interest of mutual cooperation and public/private partnership."

"We just ran out of time. Considering we only started negotiating with them (DOTC) mid-September, we've already made a lot of progress," he said in a phone interview Friday.

Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad told the INQUIRER on Thursday that they have already written the MRTC a letter formally ending the negotiations.

He did admit, though, that the MRTC was still submitting last-minute revisions to its proposal for the 5.1-kilometer MRT-3 extension deal.

"We're still open to them (MRTC). We'll just be responding to their moves," he said.

Although the DOTC remained open to whatever revisions that the MRTC may submit in the coming days, Trinidad said preparations to auction the project would already be done next week.

He warned the MRTC that if it would take a long time for them to agree with some points that the DOTC raised, the DOTC would really have to resort to bidding the project.

Trinidad added that further delay in the project could spark the ire of no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo herself as Malacañang has been pressuring the DOTC to get a contractor for the project.

Daza, however, stressed that "terminating the negotiations prematurely will be regrettable" as putting the project up for bidding would take a much longer time than continuing the negotiations.

"Most BOT (build-operate-transfer) projects take months or even years to implement (when they go through the bidding process)," he said. He expressed confidence that "unresolved issues" in their proposal could be ironed out in the next 30 days.

These issues include the type of light rail vehicles (LRVs) or coaches that would be used for the MRT-3 extension, the maintenance agreement, satellite depot, farebox revenue sharing and some commercial terms.

Trinidad said the MRTC wanted to use LRVs "different from the ones we already have. If they would agree with specifications that are at least compatible to the existing ones, then that would be fine with us."

Daza said they were willing to go through the rigors of convincing the DOTC that the LRVs they were proposing were actually compatible with the existing system, but they just ran out of time.

As for the farebox revenue sharing arrangement, they just encountered some problems with the actual wordings in the proposal, Daza said.

"We proposed a 15-percent return on investment for MRTC with a 50-50 profit sharing if the system makes a profit after all expenses. This is what we have with phase 1 (the existing MRT-3). We want to retain this. We're just having problems with wordings and technicalities," Daza added.

The maintenance agreement could also be carried over from the phase 1 contract, but some adjustments had to be made for phase 2, he said.

A lot of issues came up because MRTC had to turn its proposal into a build-transfer (BT) scheme from the original BLT upon the suggestion of the DOTC.

"The 62 issues came up so we can comply with the BT scheme. Most of it were raised by the DOTC. We already resolved 57 of those in just one week. We're just asking them for a little more time," he said.

Announcement

The 1st ARMM Business Council—PENIAGAS (Malaysia) Business Forum is scheduled to be held at the Heritage Hotel, Manila today, October 20, 2001 in cooperation with the Malaysian Embassy.

The forum is an orientation for the members of the Malaysian business community in the country. Secretary Manuel Roxas, Jr. of the Department of Trade and Industry has been invited as the keynote speaker.

The Hon. Mayor Muslimin Sema is expected to present the investment and business potentials of Cotabato City. Mr. Oscar Grino, chairman of the Mindanao Palm Oil Industry Development Coordinating Council, will report on the situation of the Palm Oil industry in the Philippines and its investment potentials.

(Sgd.) **MR. CHING YEW HO**
Chairman PENIAGAS Malaysia

(Sgd.) **DATU HARON U. BANDILA**
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Dream pads for young professionals

MAKATI

Unit 823, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
1 BR, 1 T/B 33 sqm
₱ 900,000

Unit 705
South Star Plaza
(Cityland 5)
South Superhighway
2 BR, 2 T/B 69 sqm
₱1,750,000

Unit 1120
Sunnette Tower
Durban cor. Makati Ave.
1 BR, 1 TB 38 sqm
₱1,580,000

Unit 207
State V Condominium
425 EDSA
2BR, 2 T/B 77 sqm
with parking slot
₱1,400,000

Unit 1030, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
1 BR, 1 T/B 33 sqm
₱ 925,000

QUEZON CITY

Unit 113
Prince Gregory
Condominium
12th Avenue, Cubao
2 BR, 1 T/B 41 sqm
₱1,200,000

Unit 412
Century Imperial Palace
Timog cor. Tomas Morato
2 BR, 1 T/B 56 sqm
₱1,750,000

Unit 403
Capital One
Condominium
DANR St., Proj. 6
2 BR, 2 T/B 55 sqm
₱1,600,000

Unit 4, 5th Floor
New San Jose Bldg.
119 Sct. Fernandez
1 BR, 1 T/B 43 sqm
₱ 950,000

Convenient city homes for newly weds

MAKATI

Unit C 102-A
Galleria de Magallanes
2 BR, 2 T/B 153 sqm
with parking slot
₱ 6,000,000

Unit 301, Crown Tower
HV dela Costa
Salcedo Village
2 BR, 2 T/B 179 sqm
₱ 8,000,000

QUEZON CITY

Unit 6, Vermont Square
Sunrise Drive, Santolan
4 BR, 5 T/B 174 sqm
₱ 2,800,000

Unit 3B, Building 2
Bougainvilla Mansion
P. Tuazon, Cubao
3 BR, 2 T/B 73 sqm
₱ 1,900,000

Unit 10
Capitol Golf Hills
Capitol District
4 BR, 4 T/B 231 sqm
₱ 6,000,000

Premier commercial units for budding entrepreneurs

MAKATI

Unit 7, Ground Floor
Cityland 8, Sen. Gil Puyat
76 sqm
with parking slot
₱ 2,800,000

Unit 238, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
21 sqm
₱ 500,000

Unit 241, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
21 sqm
₱ 500,000

Unit 242, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
11 sqm
₱ 260,000

Unit 249, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
33 sqm
₱ 800,000

Unit 251, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
20 sqm
₱ 500,000

Unit 255, Cityland 8
Sen. Gil Puyat
33 sqm
₱ 800,000

Unit 517, Cityland 10
HV dela Costa
Salcedo Village
58 sqm
₱ 2,000,000

Unit 615, Cityland 10
HV dela Costa
Salcedo Village
29 sqm
₱ 1,000,000

Premium office space for big companies

MAKATI

20/F, Chatham House
Herrera cor. Valero
Salcedo Village
798 sqm
with 8 parking slots
₱ 47,850,000

4th & 5th Floors
Kalaw-Ledesma Bldg.
117 Gamboa
Legaspi Village
1,035 sqm
with 8 parking slots
₱ 51,752,000

8/F Trafalgar Plaza
HV dela Costa
Salcedo Village
913 sqm
₱ 50,000,000

G/F Asian Reinsurance
Condominium
Gamboa cor. Salcedo
Legaspi Village
449 sqm
with 5 parking slots
₱ 35,000,000

QUEZON CITY

26/F, IBM Plaza
Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez, Libis
1,330 sqm
with 11 parking slots
₱ 70,000,000

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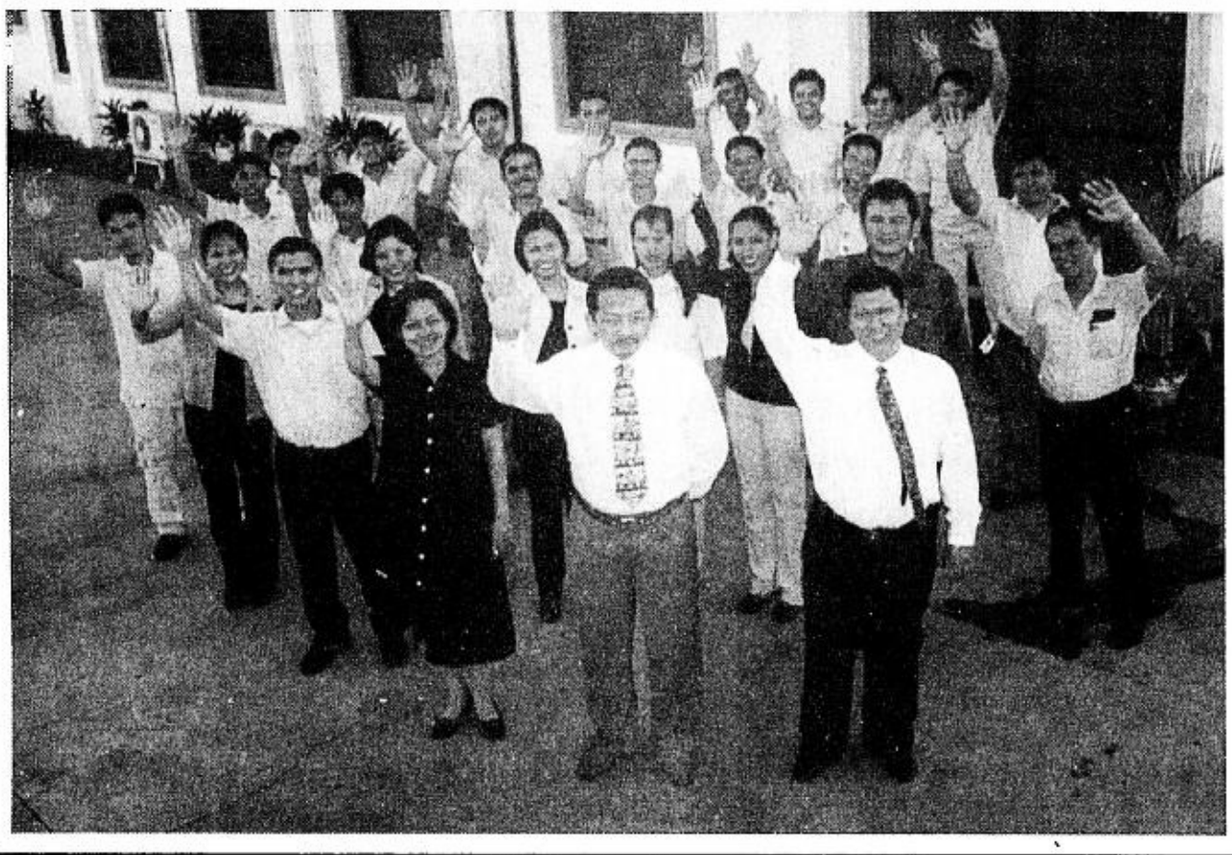

HORIZON CAN CORPORATION

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E-mail : osveg@gsc.weblinq.com
hccgnsan@gsc.weblinq.com

People, Events & Produets

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT

Rise E-Commerce Systems Inc., the consumer and E-Commerce arm of the Rise Group of Companies recently held its grand launching recently at the Rockwell Powerplant Mall in Makati. The new company aims to build consumer power programs directed towards poverty alleviation, economic improvement and the uplifting of the Filipino consumer's purchasing power. Shown is governor Antonio Leviste of the Board of Investments accepting the Certificate of Global Sharing Rewards from Rise E-Commerce Systems with hosts Paolo Bediones and Lyn Ching. For more information about consumer empowerment, call Rise E-Commerce Systems Corporate headquarters at 687-1737/ 687-2917/687-3413 to 15, or visit www.rise-ecommerce.com.

A FIRETRUCK FOR PARAÑAQUE

Parañaque Rotarians Ben Tayag and Cezar Yatco paid a courtesy call on Mayor Toshikazu Yamanishi of Kashiwara City, Osaka, recently. The seven-term mayor has pledged to donate, freight free, one used fire truck for Parañaque City on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Parañaque-Osaka Kashiwara Rotary Sisterhood Pact of 1976. Shown are rotarians Tayag and Yatco with city chief of international relations K. Tanaka, mayor Yamanishi and rotarian Yoshio Tanaka, president-elect of Osaka Kashiwara Rotary Club.

BITS & Clips

Christ's KM 133

PHILIPPINE Campus Crusade for Christ invites college students from Metro Manila to join in an adventure-filled semestral break getaway called KM 133. KM 133 will be held at Ouan's Worth Resort, Lucena City in Quezon Province. Getaway highlights are a concert, wacky games, community service, life, love and sex talks, and much more. KM 133 happens from Oct. 22-26. For details, call Joan at 372-3682 to 84, or text her at 0919-5513913.

Dos Palmas special package

DOS Palmas, on eof the premier island-resorts in Palawan, is offering a three-day, two-night package at a special price of P6,500 in line with the first-ever Miss Earth beauty pageant. Dos Palmas hosted the swimsuit competition of the Miss Earth beauty pageant. Guests of Dos Palmas will have the choice of staying in fully furnished cottages built on stilts over the waters surrounding the island, or amid landscaped gardens that boast of more than 150 varieties of plants.

UP Manila: 19 years of autonomy

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines-Manila will commemorate its 19th year of being an autonomous unit from Oct. 22-26, with week-long activities that highlight the relationship between health, environment, and IT, focusing on the theme "Kalusugan at Kapaligiran: UP Manila sa Panahon ng IT." UP Manila was the third constituent university of the UP System to be granted autonomy in 1979 under the name Health Sciences Center, which was renamed UP Manila in 1983.

Kapampangan at Julius Maggi Kitchen

THIS OCTOBER, the Julius Maggi Kitchen (JMK) will highlight Kapampangan cuisine, one of the country's most popular cooking traditions. Unique Kapampangan, home-style cooking at its best will be featured on Oct. 20, 23, 25 and 27 at JMK located at Nestle Center, Rockwell, Makati City. Taking center stage is Chef Abundio Coleza of Ima Restaurant. For more information call Nestle Consumer Services at 898-0061.

PDC green productivity training

THE PRODUCTIVITY and Development Center of the Development Academy of the Philippines invites all SME owners/managers, productivity facilitators, pollution control officers, and health and safety officers to its Trainers' Training on Green Productivity from Oct. 22-26, 8 a.m, to 5:30 p.m. at the DAP Conference Center, Tagaytay City. Green Productivity is a strategy for enhancing enterprises' environmental performance and viability. Teoh Cheng Hai, a consultant from Malaysia, will serve as main resource speaker. For inquiries, call PDC-DAP at 631-2156 or 631-0921 to 30 loc. 135. Look for Oliver Javier or Nenette Villareal.

HIRAYA PRESENTS 'ON OUR WAY'

Everyone is invited to watch Hiraya Men's Chorus Manila in their second major concert, 'On Our Way' on Sunday, Oct. 21, 5 p.m. at the Philam Life Theater, UN Avenue in Manila. The concert is presented by Bactidol, Bonamine and IO Family KTV. For reservations, call 844-5607, 843-3129, or text 0917-7931815. Hiraya (shown above) is an all-male choir with talents from a colorful and diverse network of professionals from various industries. Under the guidance of UP Madrigal Singers alumnus Alfred John de Veyra, the group's repertoire is a mix of all-male choral music genres that cut across time and nations. For more information, visit www.hiraya.org.

HCMI Power of Dreams festival

HONDA Cars Makati Inc. (HCMI), with branches in Makati, Pasig, Alabang, and Shaw will be holding the Power of Dreams Festival on Oct. 20 and 27, from 1 p.m. onwards at the HCMI dealership showrooms. Activities include Tomica Evolution Drawing contest; Create your own Zoids and Pokemon Card Game Drawing Contest; and Tomy Bit Racer and Display. Registration is free. Interested parties can call Honda Cars Makati at 852-4181 (loc. 103/110); Honda Cars Pasig at 634-2730 (loc. 102-105); Honda Cars Alabang at 807-7889 (loc. 305/306); and Honda Cars Shaw at 725-7476 (loc. 418/420).

Free acupuncture

Faith Hope Love Medical Center celebrates its 19th year offers free acupuncture from Oct. 6 to 20. Dr. Lee Wu Chun Mei, acupuncturist and head of FHLMC, is widely known in the field. FHLMC is located along 45 Timog Avenue corner Tuazon Street, Quezon City. Its other branch is at 180-D Tuazon Street, Quezon City near Retiro. Tne clinic opens from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AFP-RSBS, Moldex launch Villa Caceres

THE AFP-Retirement and Separation Benefits System and Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. (MRMI) will launch Villa Caceres Sta. Rosa Phase II today, Oct. 20 in a joint effort to address the housing needs of members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The grand launch is open to the public. Interested parties may call 551-2201 and 832-7777. MRMI's offices are located at the corner of Leveriza Street and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue in Pasay City.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, October 19, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	44.5	44.5	456,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	55,100
Global Business Bank Inc	70	78	70	78	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	175	176	172	173	69,170
Philippine National Bank	48	48	48	48	42,900
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	17	18	17	18	20,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.75	16	15.75	16	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1245	1245	1245	500
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1030	1030	1030	15,920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	6,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	70,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	120,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	3.25	2.9	3.25	505,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	365	370	365	370	38,120
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	24,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.75	39,800
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	441,300
Petron Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	3,582,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.3	1.24	1.26	1,311,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	138,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	46,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	397,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	133,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24.5	23.75	24.5	63,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	78	78	78	78	200
RFM Corp.	1.84	1.94	1.82	1.84	441,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	86,700
San Miguel Corp. B	43	43	42	43	790,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.8	4.85	3,303,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,204,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.61	30,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	250,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.77	0.73	0.77	3,080,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	190,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	1,100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	84,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	417,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	980,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	310,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	110,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	350,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26.5	26	26	239,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	5,720
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	50,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	300
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	22,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	5,139,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	180,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.245	2,010,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.195	0.2	3,680,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.14	1.16	2,743,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.165	1,530,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.5	1,176,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	15,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	715,790	52,888,155.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	68,434,440	114,576,275.00
PRO	16,463,000	32,521,440.00
Mining	25,820,000	190,500.00
OIL	15,000,000	45,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	126,433,230	200,221,370.00

AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	407.00 DOWN 3.66
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,440.96 DOWN 12.10
PRO	427.94 DOWN 1.43
Mining	1,007.19 DOWN 8.78
OIL	1.41 UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	641.97 DOWN 4.58
Composite	1,019.44 DOWN 8.96

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73; NO. OF TRADES: 1,435

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. confirmed reports it signed a $200-million senior unsecured term loan facility in Hong Kong with **JP Morgan** as sole bookrunner and facility agent.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 26, 4 p.m. at the St. La Salle Hall, Rooms 526 to 529, Level 5, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

* * *

EDILBERTO Javier was elected by the board of **Crown Equities Inc.** as director to replace Eugene Macalalag who resigned effective Oct. 18. He has likewise replaced George Go as chair of the board. Go remains a director of the company.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Waterfront Philippines Inc.** on Nov. 17 was postponed and reset to Nov. 26. The record date is on Nov. 6.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. will hold its stockholders' meeting on Nov. 22. The record date is set on Nov. 15.

* * *

SOUTH China Resources Inc. has moved to Unit 1203, 12th floor, Pacific Star Bldg., Makati City. Its contact numbers remain the same.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said **Mediaquest Holdings Inc., ePLDT Inc.,** its co-investors and certain selling stockholders of **GMA Network Inc.** are still negotiating the definitive terms of the agreement for the sale and purchase of equity interest in GMA 7, including the percentage of equity interest that will be acquired.

* * *

MACROASIA Corp. said the **Securities and Exchange Commission** approved on Sept. 6 the amended articles of incorporation of its subsidiary **Macroasia Ogden Airport Services Corp.,** particularly the change in its name to **Macroasia Menzies Airport Services Corp.** ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

ABS-CBN shelves P2-B bond float slated this year

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., the country's largest media firm, said yesterday that it was delaying indefinitely a five-year bond offer worth P2 billion slated for this year due to weak market conditions.

Proceeds from the offer would have funded the digitalization of its operations and completion of its new headquarters.

"Yes, it's (offer) postponed for the year and if things look better for next year, meaning both for the country and internationally, then maybe next year," Oliver Calma, the company's investor relations officer, told Reuters.

"To a large extent, we were affected by this crisis in the US because a lot of our funders, the institutional funders, have their corporate offices or their parent companies in the US and they sort of laid low until the next fiscal year," he added, referring to the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Calma said that while their target institutional funds were Philippine insurance firms, most of these companies seek help from their parent US firms before committing to big investments.

ABS-CBN could delay any unnecessary capital expenditure, given the slow domestic economy and delays in its main competitor GMA Network Inc.'s talks with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s unit for the sale of a major stake in the firm, Calma said.

"Basically we have to delay capex. The bond was supposed to fund our capex, and the fact that the current business environment is sluggish right now . . . that allows us even to defer capital," he said.

ABS-CBN has set a capital expenditure budget of P3.5 billion this year, but Calma said the actual capex by year's end would be lower at about P2.5 billion to P2.7 billion.

"We froze our capex as early as around start of the second half. We generate enough operational cash to fund operations and even our maintenance capex of about P1.5 billion a year," the ABS-CBN official said.

ABS-CBN has P3.5-billion short-term and P3-billion long-term debt. About P500 million worth of debt will be maturing in the first half next year which Calma said the company could pay off using its internal cash.

"We have minimal dollar debt of $8 million which is fully hedged by our international operations," he added. ***Reuters***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 19, 2001 - Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105705	1.000000	51.6940
Japan	Yen	0.009129	0.008256	0.4268
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597966	1.445200	74.7082
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141939	0.128370	6.6360
Switzerland	Franc	0.676024	0.611396	31.6055
Canada	Dollar	0.700789	0.633794	32.7633
Singapore	Dollar	0.608199	0.550055	28.4345
Australia	Dollar	0.562127	0.508388	26.2806
Bahrain	Dinar	2.933062	2.652661	137.1267
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294855	0.266667	13.7851
Brunei	Dollar	0.647346	0.585460	30.2648
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000100	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024719	0.022356	1.1557
UAE	Dirham	0.301118	0.272331	14.0779
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000772	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904400	46.7521
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.462412	23.9039
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137875	7.1273
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410399	21.2152
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065725	3.3976
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022419	1.1589
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152109	7.8631
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004511	0.2332
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005436	0.2810
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022419	1.1589
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.148351	59.3629

BLEAK PROSPECTS

OECD to cut forecasts for major economies

ATHENS—The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is set to slash its 2002 growth outlook for major world economies, more than halving earlier projections for the United States, Japan and Germany.

Draft figures obtained by Reuters on Thursday showed the Paris-based OECD preparing to cut growth estimates in all major countries as they struggled to buoy their economies following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The estimates come as companies around the world pare their workforces and rein in their own profit and revenue forecasts.

The United States' economy was seen growing next year at just 1.3 percent versus an April OECD forecast of 3.1 percent.

Japan's economy was predicted to contract 0.8 percent compared with an earlier projection of 1.1 percent.

Europe's big economies—Britain, France, Germany and Italy—all came under the OECD's forecasting ax.

Separately, sources told Reuters, Germany's six leading economic research institutes now expected national growth of 1.5 percent next year, compared with earlier projections of 2.2 percent.

The OECD figures are part of a draft report sent to the OECD's member governments for consultation ahead of the group's end-of-year outlook, due to be released on Nov. 20.

A Greek finance ministry source said the draft was sent earlier this week, making it likely the report was drafted after the September attacks, but this could not be confirmed.

In Paris, the OECD said in a statement that the figures were subject to change over the next few weeks.

It is forecasting overall 2002 growth for its 30-member states of 1.2 percent, down from an earlier mid-year projection of 2.8 percent.

The 15-nation European Union is seen growing in the report at 1.5 percent versus 2.7 percent earlier.

Britain is seen growing at a rate of 1.6 percent next year compared with the earlier projection of 2.6 percent.

Germany's forecast is chopped from the spring projection of 2.4 percent to one percent, while France is seen growing at 1.6 percent compared with the old projection of 2.7 percent.

Italy is seen growing at 1.2 percent next year, instead of the earlier estimate of 2.5 percent.

But the report sees economies recovering in 2003.

It forecasts a US growth in 2003 of 3.7 percent, bringing it close to its growth rate of 4.1 percent in 2000.

The European Union is seen growing at a rate of 2.9 percent in 2003, and Japan is seen emerging from its contraction, but still posting meager growth of 0.9 percent. *Reuters*

Japan negative growth seen unavoidable

TOKYO—Japan's key economic minister said Friday the world's No. 2 economy would suffer negative growth due to the unfolding impact of last month's terror blitz in the United States.

"There is a possibility that US GDP (gross domestic product) growth will be negative in the third and fourth quarters," Heizo Takenaka, the state minister for economic and fiscal policy, told a news conference.

"It is unavoidable that Japanese GDP growth will also become negative," he said.

His comments follow a string of warnings this week from government leaders that Japan may not meet an official growth target of 1.7 percent in the year to March 2002.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Thursday a temporary economic contraction was "inevitable" in order to achieve long-term growth, and Takenaka himself said earlier GDP might contract by about one percent in the year.

Tokyo had yet to assess the impact from the deadly Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, which prompted ongoing US-led air strikes on Afghanistan, said Takenaka.

"I keep discussing the matter with US officials, but their opinions about the outlook for the economy are still divided," he said. "It is still difficult to assess the impact on Japan of the attack."

The government's advisory council on economic and fiscal policy is due to meet later in the day but will avoid debating the effects the attacks on an extra budget aimed at boosting the flagging domestic economy, he said.

"It is almost impossible to predict the outlook after the September 11 attacks. At today's meeting, we will finalize issues related to employment."

Overall, the government will continue its flexible stance toward the launch of the supplementary budget to cope with the impact from the attacks on the US, Takenaka added.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa has said Tokyo would pursue tax-related stimulus measures rather than additional spending to boost the economy. But parliament had yet to approve a draft $22.5 billion extra budget. *AFP*

Taiwan's GDP to fall 1.76%, says think tank

TAIPEI—A leading Taiwanese economic think tank revised its forecast for the island's gross domestic product to a fall of 1.76 percent year-on-year from an earlier estimate of a 2.22-percent growth.

Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research said the revision in 2001 GDP growth forecast came on expectations Taiwan's economy would be negatively impacted by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The revised forecast marks the first decline in GDP in Taiwan since 1950, CIER said in a statement.

The institution also revised downward Taiwan's 2002 GDP growth to 2.13 percent from 4.39 percent estimated in July.

It projected July-September GDP to fall 4.52 percent year-on-year from growth of 1.72 percent seen earlier, it said.

Fourth-quarter GDP was forecast to fall 0.96 percent year-on-year, compared with growth of 4.42 percent projected earlier, it added.

The island's economic growth in the three months to June suffered its biggest quarterly fall in 26 years of 2.35 percent, according to the Directorate General Budget, Accounting and Statistics.

The economy was expected to contract over the full year by 0.37 percent, down sharply from the government bureau's earlier estimate of 4.02-percent growth.

It estimated Taiwan's GDP growth for 2002 at 4.16 percent. *AFP*

Nearly 4,000 factories shut down in Taiwan

TAIPEI—Nearly 4,000 Taiwanese factories were shut down in the nine months to September as the economy took a sharp turn for the worse, the economic ministry said Friday.

"The current slump has forced many companies to either close down or relocate their plants elsewhere, such as China, to lower production costs," a ministry official told AFP.

The number of factory closures in the January-September period rose 16.4 percent year-on-year to 3,912, but the official feared the actual number was greater because many firms had not registered with the ministry.

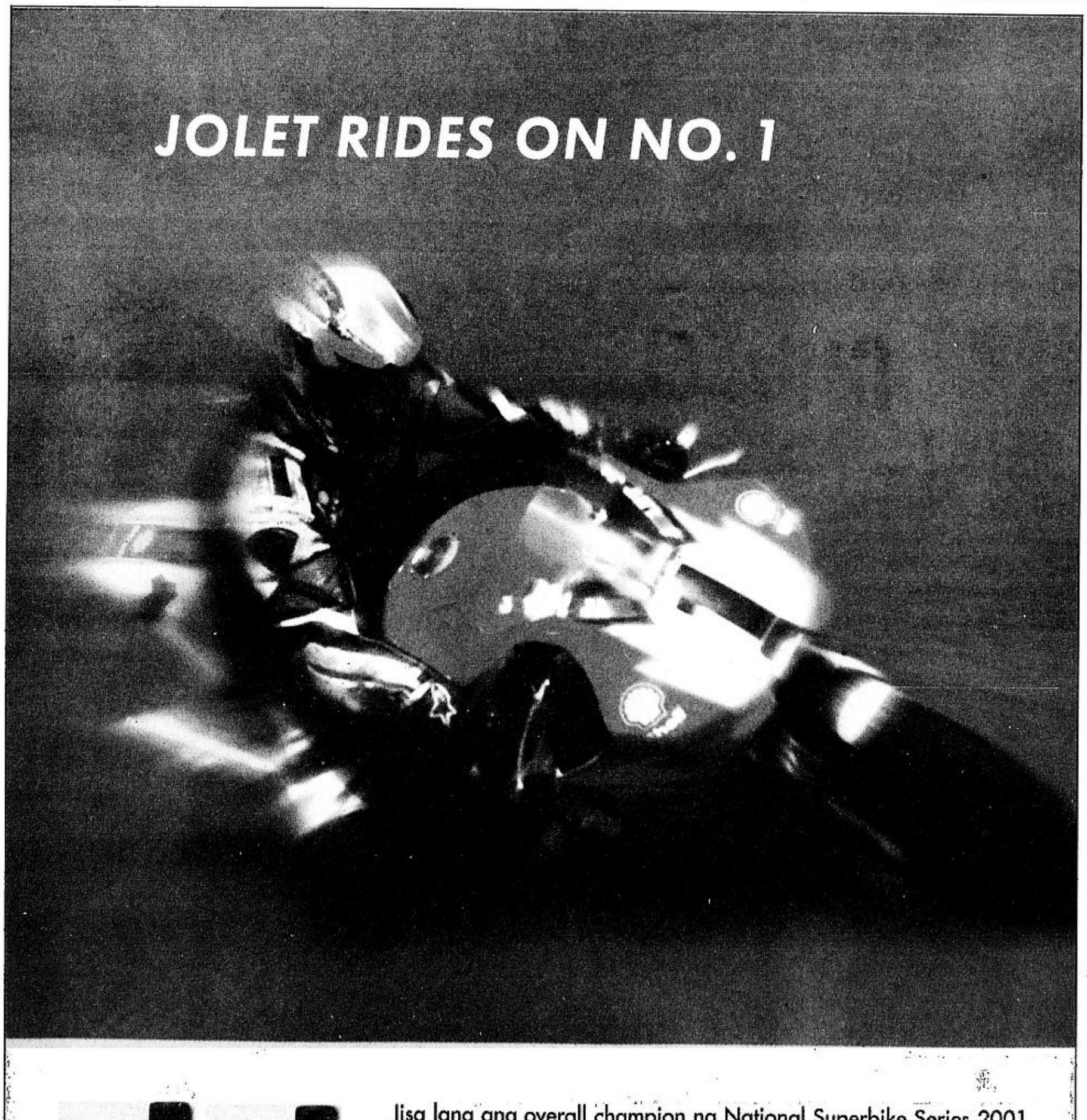
"More are likely to be forced out of business later in the year as the economic condition worsens after the terror attacks in the United States," he said.

The number of factory closures could reach 6,000 this year, up from 5,000 last year, he added.

A growing number of companies in Hong Kong, meanwhile, are cutting staff, slashing salaries or asking workers to take unpaid leave in a bid to slash costs as the economy slows.

Gammon Construction Ltd. said on Friday it had laid off 80 employees, or about 3 percent of its workforce, because of "challenges" in the construction sector.

Hong Kong's unemployment rate surged to 5.3 percent in July-September, its highest level in 17 months, and the government warned on Tuesday of more job losses to come. *AFP, Reuters*



Regional units of Japan's NTT to incur big loss

TOKYO—The two regional units of Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. are likely to incur a combined pre-tax loss of 100 billion yen ($826 million) in the six months to September, a report said Friday.

NTT East Corp. is likely to suffer interim losses of 20 billion yen, reversing sharply a pre-tax profit of 30.5 billion yen made last year due to price competition, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

The troubled firm, with operating regions including the highly profitable Tokyo metropolitan area, would mark its first pre-tax loss since it was established in July 1999 after former state monopoly NTT changed its business structure in a bid to boost efficiency, the mass-circulation daily said.

NTT West is expected to see pre-tax losses swell to 80 billion yen from 41.6 billion yen the previous year, it said.

But the two carriers issued a joint statement saying only, "It is not true that we have specific figures at the moment."

NTT East spokesperson Isao Yoshikawa said the company was in the middle of accounting work for the interim results.

"We cannot comment on which direction of figures we expect, as we have to take into account an impact on the stock price and other possible effects," he said.

NTT West also declined to comment further. *AFP*

Microsoft Q1 profits fall 42%

SEATTLE—Microsoft Corp. may be bruised by a flat personal computer market and massive investment losses, but the company signals in its latest earnings release that such setbacks will not fell the software giant.

Analysts agreed, predicting that shareholders would flock to Microsoft as other tech companies predicted even bigger worries than the software maker.

"I think what's likely to happen is that we'll see Microsoft become a safe haven for technology investors," said Brendan Barnicle, an analyst with Pacific Crest Securities. "It's got reliable earnings and it's a company that's not going to blow up even though PC growth has slowed."

For its fiscal first quarter ended Sept. 30, Microsoft saw earnings drop by 42 percent, but still managed to beat Wall Street's reduced expectations.

It warned, however, that second-quarter and full-year earnings results would fall just shy of analysts' projections.

For the three months ended Sept. 30, Microsoft earned $1.28 billion, or 23 cents per share, compared with $2.21 billion, or 40 cents per share, in the year-ago period.

The results include a hefty $1.24-billion charge, or 20 cents per share, related to investment losses, primarily in telecommunications. Excluding the investment loss, Microsoft earned 43 cents per share.

Analysts polled by Thomson Financial/First Call had forecast earnings of 39 cents a share, a figure already reduced after the company warned it would not meet analysts' original expectations due to slumping PC sales.

Barnicle said the company's ability to beat core expectations despite the personal computer downturn and massive investment losses was "a testament to Microsoft's ability to diversity."

Indeed, the company was helped along this quarter by Microsoft's success in moving into new markets beyond the computer desktop, especially in the server and enterprise areas.

Barnicle said Microsoft's strong performance in the server market was the result of its time-tested strategy of putting out a product that isn't quite as good as the competition's but comes at a much lower price.

Revenue for the quarter was 6 percent higher, at $6.13 billion, than revenue of $5.77 billion in the year-ago quarter.

With Microsoft's considerable cash reserve, Barnicle said analysts and investors also wouldn't be bothered by the company's unexpected investment loss. *AP*

DIMINISHED ROLE

Is the Federal Reserve irrelevant for now?

NEW YORK—Between a spreading anthrax scare in the United States, the assassination of a Cabinet minister in Israel and a war in Afghanistan, Alan Greenspan had some tough competition for headlines on Wednesday.

The Federal Reserve chair's testimony to lawmakers, many of whom regard him with a godlike reverence, was drowned out by a cacophony of news flashes about bioterrorism and rumors about hijackings that gripped Wall Street as he spoke.

But more generally, the central bank is playing a diminished role these days in combating the economic headwinds while the government is front and center, both in terms of providing massive fiscal stimulus and in trying to reassure Americans they are safe amid a growing panic about terrorism.

"Right now, anthrax is, in the short run, more important than the Fed," Paul Kasriel, chief domestic economist at Northern Trust Co. in New York, said.

The economy is almost certainly in a recession, and the Fed is doing about everything in its power to help the situation. It has already slashed interest rates nine times this year by a total of four percentage points.

The Fed is expected to lower the benchmark overnight lending rate, now at a near 40-year low of 2.5 percent, to 2 percent by year's end.

Lower borrowing rates certainly cushion heavily indebted consumers and businesses as they make some major adjustments in spending, saving and investments. The Sept. 11 attacks that killed nearly 5,400 people are also prompting a reassessment of risk in the economy.

The Fed has been lauded for easing borrowing significantly in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11 and for taking other steps that greased the wheels of credit markets and kept them running more or less smoothly and without interruption.

But economists detect a profound concern that monetary policy is losing some of its effectiveness in statements by Fed officials recently that interest rate cuts may not be enough to reinvigorate the economy.

Officials recognize that making Americans feel safe again is probably the most crucial element for an economic recovery.

That begs the question of whether another quarter or half-point rate cut will make much difference at all.

"It may be true that cutting interest rates won't get people on airplanes again," said Kasriel. "But if cutting rates gets people to borrow money, they will spend it on other things like designer gas masks. If they're not going to go out, they will buy big screen TVs and DVD players, one for every room."

Goldman Sachs economist Jan Hatzius said Greenspan was "trying hard to sound positive" in his testimony to the joint economic committee of Congress. But that was hard to do at the same time that he was admitting to an unusually high degree of uncertainty over the near-term economic outlook.

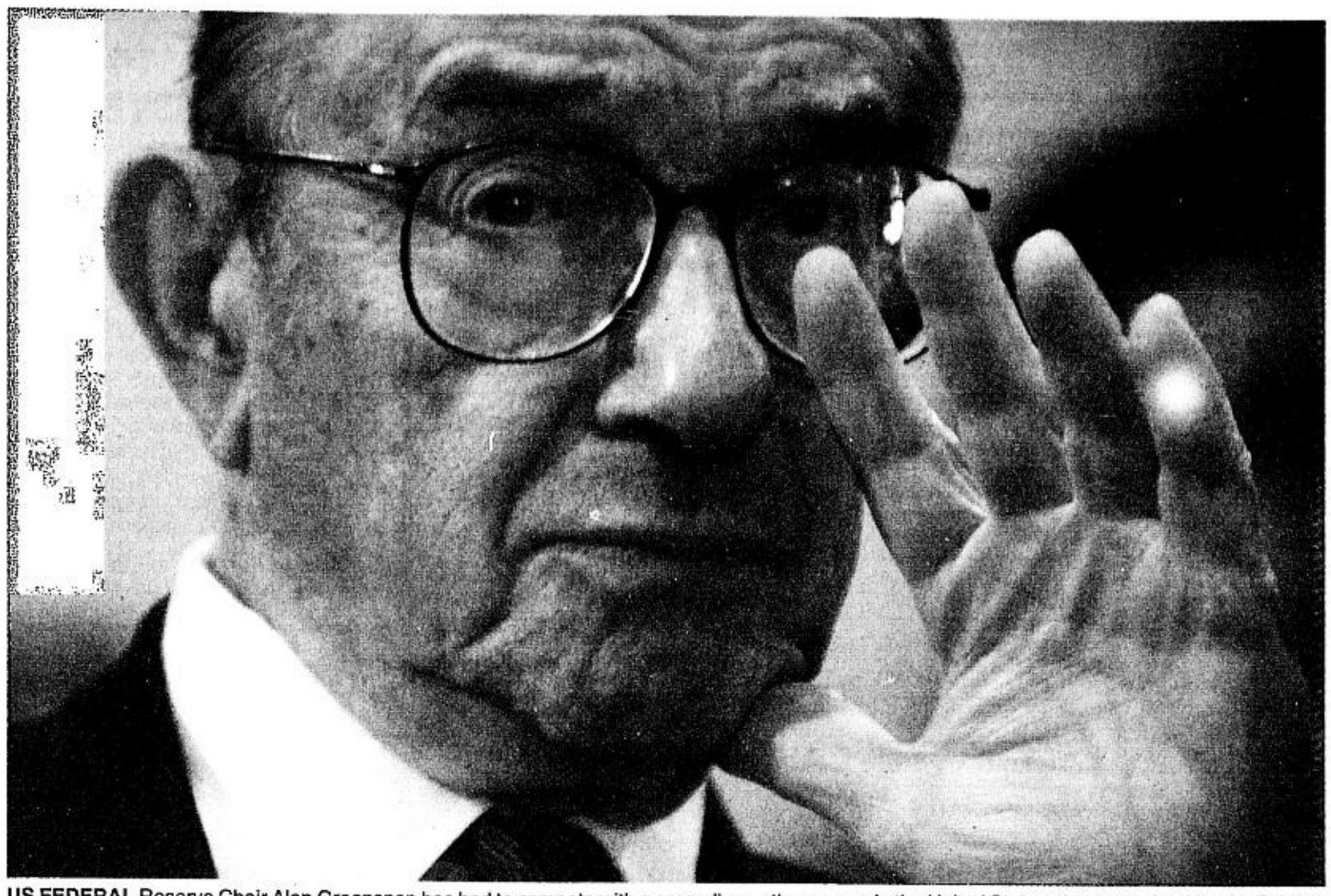
Greenspan said activity had recovered somewhat from depressed levels, and the impact was not as bad as some had feared. But it was still too soon to assess how much damage was done, he said.

Greenspan predicted a one-time adjustment in the economy but in the long run, he was confident of a full recovery.

Economists said he gave no signal on what rate moves could be expected over the next few months, which reflected his uncertainty over the short-term outlook.

Greenspan, for the most part, tried to avoid being drawn into a debate in the US Congress over exactly what type of fiscal stimulus was appropriate or necessary.

But the Fed is believed to favor temporary incentives to boost spending that can be unwound if the potent mix of massive monetary and fiscal easing overheats the economy in the future. He did say temporary investment tax credits had proved in the past to be an effective way to boost spending. *Reuters*



US FEDERAL Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan has had to compete with a spreading anthrax scare in the United States, the assassination of a Cabinet minister in Israel and a war in Afghanistan for headlines. Many see him playing a diminished role, but has he become irrelevant? AP

Lafarge to build major presence in Asia

TOKYO—The world's largest cement group, Lafarge SA of France, said Friday that it would boost sales in Asia, its biggest growth market, over the next seven years as the pace of expansion in Europe slowed.

"(Revenue from Asia) is the lowest, but it has the fastest growth," Bertrand Collomb, chair and chief executive of the international building materials company, told a group of foreign journalists.

"We expect it to be the fastest part of the group for the next 15 years. I would see 15 percent (of total sales) being the target in seven years," he said.

Business in Asia generated 9 percent of the group's 12.2 billion euros ($11 billion) in revenue last year.

Although sales in Europe are firm, the market is saturated, forcing Lafarge to look east for new opportunities.

"The long-term growth pattern of Europe is clearly limited, like France or Germany and the UK," he said. "(Now), the highest growth is in Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia, Korea or China."

The acquisition-hungry French group has bought stakes in foreign rivals throughout the region over the past few years as part of a global plan to maintain its position as top builder in all aspects of the business, including roofing and concrete.

At the end of September, Lafarge completed a major deal with Japanese cement maker Aso Cement Co. Ltd., taking a 39.6-percent stake in a new joint venture, Aso Corp. based in Kyushu south Japan, for an undisclosed cash sum.

It was the first time a foreign firm bought into Japan's cement industry, the fourth largest market in the world with an annual output of 70 million tons.

With a growing presence throughout Asia, including South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and China, the shift into Japan was a vital part of Lafarge's overall strategy, Collomb said. *AFP*

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STUDIO, 1BR & 2BR UNITS COMPLETE WITH PLDT, SKYCABLE PROVISION. Building has 24-hr security guard, smoke and fire alarm system & strong water supply. Your comfort and privacy is our business. Elynor/Gina Tel. 532-1016 Weekdays

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Ortigas P16T 2BR 1mds/rm 126m² nr VV6 2588019

Twnhse 4BR 2TB w/Grd Kapitolyo Pasig P25T 634-3382 Sat. Look Tes 632-9761Sun. Max

QUEZON CITY

Scout 4BR3flr 18T 9512413

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Condo San Juan 2Br & 2Tb 1Maids Rm SFurn P25T/mo 7236289 0917-7919484 Cora

VARIOUS AREAS

BRENTVILLE MAMPLASAN 15 MINS FR ALABANG QUIET SAFE 2BR 2 1/2 TB MDSRM & TB AC F/S-FURN FREE USE OF BRENT FACILITIES CALL OFF HRS. 526-4478

FOR LEASE

350m² Mkti Whse Off 7233697

60m² Pasay Taft nr. Buendia LRT 8310169/0917-4500042

Comm.&Res.Apt.right side Makati City Hall 8103019

Int.Sucat Lot 1,555m² 5464463

WANTED TO BUY

Buying Rolex Watch
Call 6310815;09178411520

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

BUSINESS RENTAL

6BR/2CR 20T 8016552/8065474

For Rent 2 Room Office P8500 T-9219465;4260930

G/F Com. Space Near Paco Park oppsite Garden Plaza Hotel 50 sqm w/ CR & AC Call 8509893

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st Class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

RESORT

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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Charade 1992 641-6581

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97 Civic LXI M/T FRESH 323Neg 6888010 6313649

Accord EXI'97 A/T 460T 09173876810

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•98H100 P255T 9276597•

KIA

•98Besta 2.7 P255T 9276597•

•98Pregio 3.0 P320T 3303315•

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•98 MB100D P368T 3303315

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89 LANCER GLX P120T 939-1284 • 0979-7750475

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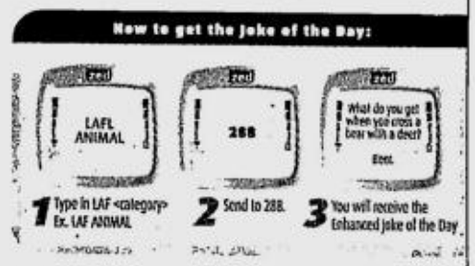

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CONSTRUCTION ELEVATORS,
HOISTING TOWER & MACHINES,
STEEL SCAFFOLDINGS,
DEFORMED STEEL BARS
Grade 60, 28mm & 32mm
Call Jho Tel. 723-8408

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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Cars/Vans •8203894•

HONDA MB100 8908668

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

MB H-Ace L3 Urvan 8257135

Pajero/Safari 4530503

Revo 1000/8hrs 4554873

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New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

Toyco CarVanRental 8006595

Vans,Bridal-Benz 9321699

CAR SERVICE

AUV NO DEP NO DOWN with Driver 4565544 ED

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

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Just call we deliver 2HP Carrier suing model P9T 1.5HP P8T 1HP P6T 3ton packg type Koppel Carrier Alenaire good as bnew P30T 5-7.5ton P55T 9219465 4260930 4554061

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Dog Trainer 09192050952

Engls BULLDOG Inheat US Parent P35T Rush 9488240

Pomeranians •842-3394•

TRAINER 4528681 / 0919729020

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Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

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ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
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MISCELLANEOUS

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HI SPEED sewing machine
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Analyn

IMPORTED TILES from China & Italy!
50-60% DISCOUNT!
CLOSE OUT SALE!
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CAPITOL CITY SPORTS AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC. (CCSCCI)
BALCON TRADING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING (LIQUIDATION)

Notice is hereby given that the Capitol City Sports and Country Club, Inc. and Balcon Trading Corporation will hold a special stockholders' meeting:

DATE : October 26, 2001
TIME : 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
PLACE : Celebrity Sports Plaza Function Room No. 4 Capitol Hills, Quezon City
AGENDA : a) Dissolution of the two (2) corporations effective October 31, 2001
b) Liquidation and such other related matters that may be brought out during the meeting

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONIDES S. RESPICIO
Corporate Secretary
Tel. Nos. 633-6583, 633-5591

U.S. EMBASSY
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU
PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION

PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used UHF antenna dish and towers, GE & Collins short wave transmitter equipment, Fruehauf transportable maintenance unit and control vans, assorted wires, assorted GE & Collins spare parts, switching system and miscellaneous scrap materials.

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: October 23-24, 2001; 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at IBB/PTS (formerly Voice of America), Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union. Submission of bids and 20% bond in cash or Manager's check will be on **October 25, 2001** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Tel#: (045) 982-0254 or 0255
POC: Belle Concepcion or
(072) 888-2747 or 2773
POC: Benjie Ofilada

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 21, 2001)

ERRATUM

In the ad of the **DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES** published in this paper **October 18** and **19, 2001 Re: Invitation to Bid, Code VPI-62a,c,e, 1 & p** should be read as **VPI-62a,c,e, l & p.**
Our apologies.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Exp. Taxi Driver 635-3503

Optr Roland 6574395 Cainta

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

•Hairstylists & Manicurists• 826-5624/850-9733

★Urgent: OFFICE STAFF★ Call/Text: 09174963725

Ofc Staff 9134470 Kyle

•URGENT OFFICE STAFF 9134470 Look for RYAN

WANTED
Flower Arranger
(willing to learn) preferably w/art interest 20-30 yrs old
8996234/8996272
Look for Analyn

WASHER & PLANTSADORA 4363434/9328970 Dyna;My

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **ANTONIA MURO MELON** has been extrajudicially settled with Partition among her heirs per Doc No. 701 Page No. 150 Book I Series 2001 before Not. Public Atty. Marcos Estrada of QC (PDI-Oct. 6, 13 & 20,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CARMEN V. LARA was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share by the heirs per Doc 135, Page 27 Book 5, Series of 2001 of Notary Public for the City of Manila Antonio A. Baranda. (PDI-10/6,13, & 20 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **MA. CLARA VIRGINIA R. BONDAD** who died on December 11, 1997 was extrajudicially settled from among their heirs as Doc. No. 24; Page No. 7; Book No. VII; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Ma. Angelica C. Dychiao of Paranaque City. (PDI-Oct.20,27,Nov.3,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SO CHING YONG UY has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 203; Page No. 41; Book No. III; Series of 2001 of Notary Public H.B. Basco of Manila (PDI-Oct.20,27&Nov.3,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my Ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

ALL NURSES

(IHS) Integrated Health Services, the industry leader in post-medical care with 350 facilities across the United States is offering

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We provide:
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Ormoc City
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(0919) 618-3047
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Just bring two (2) clear copies of the following requirements:
1. CGFNS Certificate*
2. B.S.N. Diploma
3. PRC License
4. Picture page from Passport
5. Board Exam Rating
6. Transcript of Records
7. Resumé with 2x2 pictures
8. Work Certificates

** Those who are just waiting for their CGFNS result may also apply.*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
MUNICIPALITY OF NAGUILIAN

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to prequalify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Naguilian, La Union as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to prequalify contractors and if prequalified to bid for the construction and completion of CONSTRUCTION OF ONE LANE RCDG BRIDGE at Mamat-ing Sur, Naguilian, La Union.
3. The works proposed to be undertaken shall include all labor, tools, materials and equipment necessary to complete the projects in accordance with the approved plans and specification.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT
A)	500 METERS BRIDGES APPROACH		
PART A:	FACILITIES FOR THE ENGINEERS	L.S.	L.S.
100	CLEARING & GRUBBING	1194	SQ.M.
102(1)	COMMON EXCAVATION	492	CU.M.
102(2)	SURPLUS COMMON EXCAVATION	222	CU.M.
104	EMBANKMENT	270	CU.M.
200	AGG. SUB-BASE COURSE	263	CU.M.
202	AGG. CRUSHED BASE COURSE	372	CU.M.
303	ASPHALT JOINT SEALING	1125	LNM
311	PORTLAND CEM. CONC. PAVEMENT	358.08	CU.M.
500	REINFORCE CONC. PIPE (300 MM)	14	LN.M.
504	GROUTED RIP-RAP	611.11	CU.M.
PART B: BRIDGE	FACILITIES FOR THE ENGINEERS	L.S.	L.S.
100	CLEARING & GRUBBING	1110	SQ.M.
103	STRUCTURE & EXCAVATION	432	CU.M.
400-15	TEST PILES	1	PC
400-16	CONCRETE PILING	2124	LN.M.
404	REINFORCING STEEL	171181	KGS
405-1	STRUCTURAL CONC. CLASS "A"	1604.2	CU.M.
405	STRUCTURAL STEEL	40	CU.M.
401	RAILINGS	19.75	CU.M.
411	PAINTING	800	SQ.M.
505	STONE MASONRY	397.50	CU.M.

Minimum Equipments Required

1	unit	Bulldozer	- LGU
1	unit	Backhoe	- Owned
1	unit	Road Grader	- Owned/leased
1	unit	Road Roller	- Owned/leased
1	unit	PayLoader	- Owned/leased/LGU
8	units	Dump Truck	- Owned
1	unit	Water Truck	- Owned
3	units	Concrete Mixer (one bagger)	- Owned

4. Prequalification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the Municipal Office of Mayor, and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P10,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
5. Submission of application for prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC-ARCP, Municipality of Naguilian, La Union not later than **October 25, 2001.**
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **November 15, 2001.** No bids will be accepted later than 10:00 o'clock a.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
7. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CEFERINO V. ARGUEZA**
Acting Mayor
Acting Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI - Oct. 18, 20 & 21, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Tondo Medical Center invites local tender for furnishing and delivering foodstuffs beginning January-June, 2002.

Interested parties who can provide the above-mentioned services may submit their pre-qualification documents on **October 22-23, 2001** at the Dietary Service. Qualified bidders may obtain bid documents from the Dietary Department, Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila on **October 29-31, 2001.** Sealed bids shall be submitted not later than **November 9, 2001**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Laboratory Conference Room, Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila at which time, date and place sealed bids shall be publicly opened.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 5, 2001**, Monday at 2:00 p.m. and deliberation will be held on **November 19, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at the Laboratory Conference Room, Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

Tondo Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, to waive any informality in the bids received or to accept such bids as may be advantageous and responsive to the needs of this hospital.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, M.D.**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 21, 2001)

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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS) East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1. MARGARITA BALBOA	Unknown	RUSTICO BALBOA SS#07-0280135-8	February 1, 2001
2. LILIA OLACO	Unknown	BENEDICK BARTOLOME SS#33-2587048-8	May 14, 2001
3. CARINA DEL MAR	2593-H Beata, Pandacan, Manila	REYNALDO BAUTISTA SS#03-2447113-7	March 3, 2001
4. AURORA CAMACHO	636 Bo. San Jose, Mandaluyong City	GIL CAMACHO SS#03-3154541-2	April 10, 2001
5. ERLINDA A. CARDOSA	Tondo, Manila	ALEJANDRO E. CARDOSA SS#03-2278460-6	December 4, 2000
6. LOURDES AGUSTIN	Unknown	DIONISIO J. CARLOS SS#03-2140430-1	April 29, 1999
7. JOSE CATRE	Unknown	FELICIANA D. CATRE SS#03-2740059-0	September 5, 2001
8. FELICITAS DEALAGDON RODERICK DEALAGDON	Unknown	ALEJANDRO T. DEALAGDON SS#03-4656821-9	August 25, 2001
9. GUADALUPE O. GEBULAN	354 P. Dandan St., Pasay City	OSBERTO A. GEBULAN SS#03-5864236-9	July 11, 2001
10. BERNADETTE TENO	Unknown	RODOLFO Z. LAZAGA SS#04-0195727-3	March 22, 2001
11. ARCADIO LLANES JR.	Unknown	AMPARO LLANES SS#07-0793532-6	November 20, 2000
12. DINA ROBLES RHEA & VERONICA	Unknown	JOSEFINO C. LOPEZ SS#03-2820490-2	September 16, 1999
13. LEVERIZA LOPEZ	Unknown	REYNALDO LOPEZ SS#03-2820490-2	July 16, 2001
14. PANADO LUCENARA	c/o J. Moreno, 700 Gen. Malvar Street, Malate, Manila	ESTHER B. LUCENARA SS#03-2788463-7	January 3, 2001
15. VIRGINIA MARCO	Alianza, San Fernando Camarines Sur	ANTONIO MARCO SS#03-2301305-9	May 31, 2001
16. TERESITA E. DICANO MICHAEL MARQUEZ	54 A. Roces Ave., Quezon City	MIGUEL S. MARQUEZ SS#03-1065262-7	March 15, 2001
17. WILSON NACION	77 A.V. Rama Ave., Cebu City	WILFREDO T. NACION SS#03-9956798-2	January 20, 2001
18. PAULA QUEJADA	Alabang, Muntinlupa	EMETERIO P. MOSTRALES SS#03-0160448-0	September 6, 2000
19. GINA PARRENO	Unknown	JESUS PARRENO SS#07-0709892-0	April 17, 2000
20. ANITA ALBA	Unknown	REYNALDO V. PAUMIL SS#06-0539681-8	April 12, 2001
21. SEIGFRED PRZYWARA	Munich, Germany	MINGLANITA PRZYWARA SS#07-1526224-3	July 7, 1999
22. DOMINGO SALMORIN	Mindanao	LUCIA SALMORIN SS#07-1442770-4	April 29, 2000
23. GENEROSA TANINAS	Unknown	ELEUTERIO L. TANINAS SS#07-0331692-3	July 12, 2001
24. EVELYN TIMBAN	Manila	LUDOVICO TIMBAN SS#07-0548763-6	September 9, 2000
25. EUGENIO TIMBOY	Unknown	ANTONIO P. TIMBOY SS#03-6790505-5	December 25, 2000
26. ROSARIO TOISA LORETA TOISA	Unknown	EDUARDO TOISA SS#03-1267659-1	September 8, 1999
27. ELIZABETH VERANO EDUARDO VERANO	445 New Burgos, Bo. Obrero, Davao City	ERNESTO R. VERANO SS#09-0105207-6	December 7, 1999
28. ROLANDO SOLOMON	Unknown	SOLOMON D. VICTORIANO SS#03-2251919-8	April 22, 2001
29. ELVIRA O. VILLACRUZES	Unknown	ROLITO VILLACRUZES SS#07-0363075-6	November 22, 1999

(PDI--Oct. 20, 2001)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gene Pool
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
FAX: 63 (044) 456-0730
Tel.: 63 (042) 456-0731 to 34
E-mail: pcc-ced@mozcom.com
Manila Liaison Office
5F, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound
EDSA, Quezon City, Philippines 0630
Tel./FAX: 63 (2) 921-3063
63 (2) 925-7727
E-mail: pcc-mlo@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center invites interested suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

Light Commercial Vehicle
(AUV Passenger Body with Aircon)

Pre-qualification requirements can be secured from Mr. Ronaldo A. Sadural, Property Section, Philippine Carabao Center National Genepool & Headquarters, CLSU Compound, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija and Rogel De La Cuesta, Philippine Carabao Center Manila Liaison Office located at 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City starting on **October 22, 2001**. Last day of submission of pre-qualification documents will be on **October 26, 2001.**

Only those who submitted pre-qualification documents are allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on **October 29, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the PCC Manila Liaison Office at 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Compound, EDSA, Quezon City. Those who failed to attend the pre-bidding conference are disqualified to participate in the bidding.

Sealed bids shall be received not later than November 7, 2001, 10:00 AM at the same address. Only pre-qualified bidders will be allowed to attend the bidding proper.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any formality therein, and to award the same to the one whose bid offer is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

(PDI – Oct. 19 & 20, 2001)

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"...The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality..."
(Preface, Mass for the Death)

Francisca Fermin Cruz

December 4, 1908

Widow of ***Col. ANATOLIO B. CRUZ, MC***
Passed on peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 18, 2001.

Their bereaved children **ANATOLIO, JR., ILEANA, WALDEMAR, WALTER, LINCOLN, NANCY, FRANCES, GLORIA** and **MA. VIRGINIA**; daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren; sister **FLORENTINA**; nieces, nephews and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her body lies at the UP Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice, Diliman, Quezon City.

She will be laid to rest on Sunday, October 21, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:15 a.m. Mass at the College Chapel, Ateneo de Manila Univeristy, Loyola Heights.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

AMELIA "MOLLY" REYES LUZ

of Lipa City

who joined her Creator on October 8, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

IN LOVING MEMORY

On the 8th Death Anniversary of

REMIGIO M. LILLES

June 7, 1925 - October 20, 1993

Masses will be offered today, October 20, 2001 at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes - 6:15 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 12:15 noon and 6:00 p.m.
San Agustin Chapel, Dasmariñas Village - 7:00 a.m.
Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City - 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang - 6:20 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle, Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City - 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

His family: **Lita Dizon Lilles, Cindy** and **Jim Maceda, Robert** and **Cecile, Isabel, Ayrton** and **Sophia, Tony** and **Marlyn, Maia** and **Miela** and **Patricia** request relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Amb. RAMON "MONET" LIZARES NOLAN

who joined the Lord on October 1, 2001

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses, prayers and flowers, visited and kept vigil, joined us in the burial rites, and in one way or the other condoled with us and showed love and concern in our time of bereavement.

THE NOLAN FAMILY

CIPRIANO B. TORRES

Major (Ret) PAF
of Lopez Jaena, Misamis Occidental

Peacefully joined her beloved wife, ***Josefa***
in the Grace of our Lord on October 19, 2001

His children **Millet** & **Pet, Tony** & **Dinah, Carol** & **James, Elen, Edith** & **Raymond, Grace** requests pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, Lot 9, Block 34 Soldier's Hills, Muntinlupa.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 23, 2001, 12 noon at Everest Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa.

CELSO "CHING" BREVA SARENAS

of Davao City
Former Mayor of Pantukan, Davao del Norte
1963 - 1986

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 17, 2001 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **NATIVIDAD VILLAFUERTE**; his bereaved children and their spouses **Marichu Fama, Tok** & **Mita Sarenas, Batoy** (†) & **Mitzi Sarenas, Aching** & **Mike Mendez**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on October 20, 2001 at San Pedro Memorial Park after the 7:00 AM Mass at St. Jude Parish, Davao City.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
(JFMH-PBEC)

October 19, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Dr. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (JFMH-PBEC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB) with a minimum license category of "D/registration "SMALL B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the **EXPANSION OF HOSPITAL PHARMACY PROJECT, DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**, located at Lope de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Pre-C Forms shall be made available to contractors classified above upon submission of Letter of Intent, latest PCAB license from October 24-30, 2001 at the Administrative Office, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Lope de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Bring original copies of PCAB license for authentication.

Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification statements is on November 5-7, 2001. JFMH-PBEC shall post the list of pre-qualified and pre-disqualified contractors-applicants on November 9, 2001 at JFMH-PBEC's Bulletin Board.

Dates for the issuance of Bid/tender documents to pre-qualified contractors, pre-bid and public bidding are as follows:

1. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	**November 12-13, 2001**
2. Pre-Bid Conference	**November 20, 2001 2:00 p.m., Reception Hall**
3. Public Bidding	**November 27, 2001 1:00 p.m., Reception Hall**

Complete set of bid/tender documents may be purchased by interested pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos Only (3,000.00).

JFMH-PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposals as evaluated by JFMH-PBEC is the most advantageous to the government. JFMH-PBEC assume no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIETA R. SIONGCO, M.D.**
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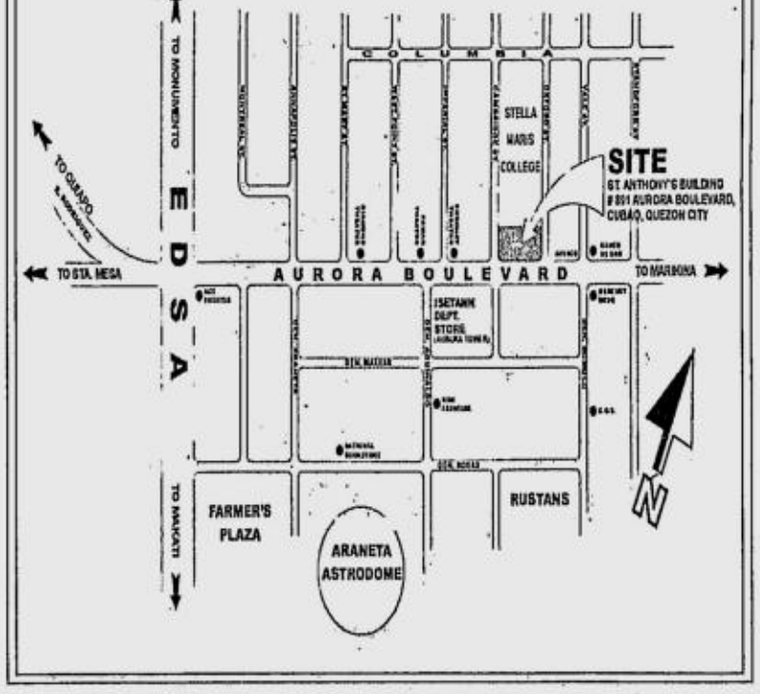


Early morning exercise risky for heart patients

EXERCISING in the morning upon waking up may not be that healthy for patients with high blood pressure and heart disease. It may even predispose to heart attacks, strokes or even sudden death in high-risk individuals.

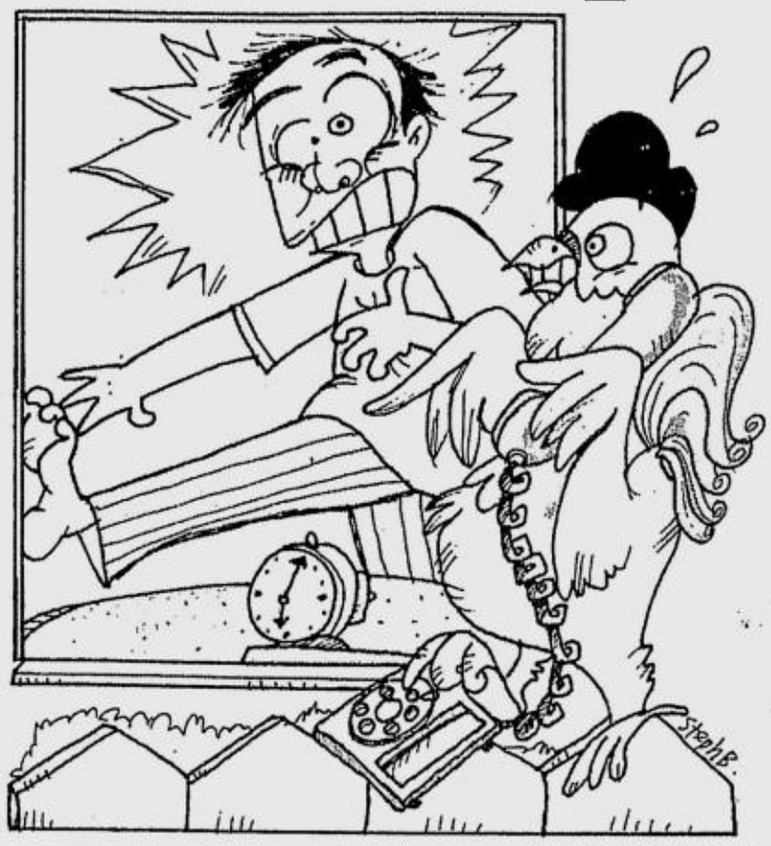


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Such is the growing consensus among heart specialists who are alarmed by the association of blood pressure elevation and cardiovascular events such as heart attacks, strokes and sudden death during the early morning hours.

Speaking before international delegates in the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Congress of Cardiology held here recently, Prof. Trefor Morgan, a world-renowned heart specialist and head of the department of Physiology at the University of Melbourne in Australia, said the blood pressure steeply rises upon assumption of an upright position from an overnight sleep.

Professor Morgan explained that the blood pressure is highest from 6 to 10 in the morning, and falls steadily during the latter part of the day and through the evening, with lowest levels between midnight and 2 a.m. It slowly rises again while one is still sound asleep until about 6 a.m. This pattern is called the circadian rhythm of blood pressure.

Sudden surge

Scientific evidence shows doubling of incidence of ischemia or lack of oxygen in the heart, with significantly higher blood pressures and increased occurrence of strokes and sudden death between 6 and 8 a.m., compared to any other 2-hour period during the day.

"The alarming fact is that most people including those who have uncontrolled hypertension and significant heart disease exercise at this time," Professor Morgan said.

There are now convincing data showing that the sudden surge in the blood pressure noted during arousal from sleep in the morning, may be directly involved in triggering myocardial ischemia even in patients with a stable pattern of angina or chest pain. Most of these ischemic episodes have been shown to be "silent ischemia" such that the patients may not feel any symptom while they're exercising and already experiencing the significant deficit of oxygen and other essential nutrients in their hearts.

Dr. Gregorio Patacsil, president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension, said that the tendency for major cardiovascular complications to occur during the early hours of the morning has already been written about in several medical journals but this is probably the first time it will be reported in the lay media. Most doctors still have to revise their recommendation to their patients as to when would be the safest time to exercise.

Published clinical studies specifically addressing this problem suggest that abrupt changes in the blood pressure are not well-tolerated and that patients with smooth blood pressure patterns have less evidence of disease in the heart, brain and kidney compared to those with labile blood pressure and with sudden surges in the early morning.

MEDICAL FILES

Professors JE Muller, PH Stone and ZG Turi in their study published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine demonstrated that if adequate blood pressure control could be maintained during the early morning period, it may be possible to reduce the increased incidence of heart attacks during this period. They have shown that patients with well-controlled blood pressure after waking up did not show a significant increase in heart complications during the period from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Strong causal relationship

Dr. Rody Sy, president of the Philippine Lipid Society and chair of the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Congress on Atherosclerosis, explained that there appears to be a strong causal relationship between the early blood pressure morning surge and the increased risk of heart attacks, stroke and sudden deaths in the early morning hours.

According to Dr. Sy, another factor that has been implicated in this critical early morning period is the increased activity of the sympathetic nervous system. The increased adrenaline and sensitivity to it cause an increase in heart rate, pumping of the heart and irritability of the heart muscles predisposing to serious irregularities in the heart beat called arrhythmia in those with significant narrowing of the heart arteries.

Other contributory factors are the increased viscosity of the blood and stickiness or adhesiveness of the platelets which are blood elements responsible for clotting. Together with a decreased fibrinolytic activity or the inherent ability of the blood to dissolve a clot, the tendency to form a thrombus or blood clot enough to occlude an artery is relatively strongest during the early morning hours upon waking up. This can then potentially lead to serious complications, which may even be fatal.

Clearance, tests

The risk of early morning exercise may not be significant for those with normal hearts and blood pressure, but since one may have heart problems and hypertension even in the absence of symptoms, it is recommended that one should get a clearance first from his physician before starting an exercise program. The physician can also do additional tests such as a stress test, Holter monitoring for abnormal heart rhythm and silent ischemia, and a 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring to assess one's heart condition, blood pressure pattern and determine what level of exercise one can tolerate.

The blood pressure normally increases physiologically with exercise but some may have an excessive or exaggerated increase with exercise. A 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring wherein an apparatus is hooked to a patient that measures the blood pressure regularly for a whole day can diagnose lability in one's blood pressure.

Many heart specialists recommend that for those with coronary artery disease or narrowing of the heart arteries, and for those with uncontrolled blood pressure at rest or with exercise, adjusting the time of exercise to later in the afternoon or evening may be safer.

For those who really insist to exercise early in the morning, taking one's medicines for the heart and blood pressure 30 minutes to one hour before exercising may provide some protection to prevent the dreaded complications.

In his lecture, Professor Morgan also presented his group's clinical research, which provides important new information on the factors and mechanisms influencing the blood pressure. Using ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, they have shown a variable response of hypertensive patients to various blood-pressure lowering pills depending on the time of day. "This may explain why some drugs are less effective than others at different times of the day," explained Prof. Morgan.

More sensitive

Based on the results of the study, the blood pressure at night is more sensitive to drugs that can neutralize the renin-angiotensin system, which is a potent regulator of the blood pressure. Hence, the classes of drugs called angiotensin receptor blockers and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors are more effective in controlling nighttime and early morning blood pressure. This was corroborated by the clinical data presented by this writer in the same scientific symposium.

Most heart specialists agree that using drugs, alone or in combination, that provide a smooth and continuous action to provide optimal blood pressure in the early morning period is most desirable in reducing complications particularly while one is exercising during this period.

Daytime blood pressure however appears to be more regulated by the sympathetic nervous system and can be controlled better by antihypertensive drugs acting on this system such as beta-blockers. These findings suggest that control of the blood pressure can only be optimally attained by a combination of drugs and not by single drugs or mono-therapy as has been popularly advocated in the past.

False sense of complacency

Dr. Patacsil pointed out the result of the landmark Hypertension Optimal Treatment study in Europe showing that 74 percent of patients with high blood pressure require combination therapy to achieve an optimal control of the blood pressure down to the desired levels.

"A big problem in hypertension control," Dr. Patacsil said, "is that many patients have the misconception that just because they're taking some pills—even if the anti-hypertensive regimen or the doses are inadequate—they are already protected from the complications of high blood pressure." Dr. Patacsil described this as a false sense of complacency that leads to a poor control of the blood pressure.

"Just imagine all these people with poorly controlled hypertension exercising at a time when the early morning surge in the blood pressure and other adverse factors favoring the blood to clot are also taking place. It can really spell danger," cautioned Dr. Patacsil.

All heart specialists recommend exercise as a healthy lifestyle habit everyone with or without heart disease and high blood pressure must do regularly. However, good things done at the wrong time can also be bad and risky.

(Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology, a former editor in chief of the Philippine Journal of Cardiology and the current chair of the Philippine Specialty Board of Adult Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Graph theory and discrete geometry

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FROM OCT. 15 to 17, "Graph Theory and Discrete Geometry: A Conference in Honor of Frank Harary on His 80th Year" was held at the Ateneo de Manila University. In last week's column, we looked at the life and work of Harary, deemed to be the father of modern graph theory. Now we summarize what the major speakers (who came from different parts of the world) presented at the conference. Much of the following information is quoted verbatim from their abstracts.

Allen Schwenk of Western Michigan University was one of Dr. Harary's doctoral students. He talked about "Nine Unexpected Applications of Linear Algebra in Graph Theory." There are many problems in the graph theory which do not seem to have anything to do with matrices and linear algebra. Nevertheless, it has repeatedly been found that the matrices and their eigenvalues serve to identify important properties of the graphs in question.

In his lecture, Schenk examined several problems with unexpected connections to linear algebra. These include the friendship theorem, minimum biclique decomposition, isomorphic biclique decomposition, decomposing a complete graph into Petersen graphs, uniqueness of two Ramsey theory graphs, the search for cages and the search for Moore graphs.

Koh Khee Meng of the National University of Singapore is a familiar figure to Filipino graph theorists. He discussed "On Optimal Orientations of Graphs." An orientation of a graph G is a digraph obtained from G by assigning to each edge in G a direction. An orientation D o G is strong if every two vertices in D are mutually reachable in D. Robbins' celebrated one-way street theorem states that a connected graph has a strong orientation if and only if it contains no bridges. As a way of extending Robbins' result, the notion of orientation number of G had been introduced.

In his lecture, Khee Meng presented Goldberg's classic result which gives a sharp lower found for the orientation number in terms of the order and size of G. He also discussed Chvatal and Thomassen's function, and focused on certain families of graphs, including complete multipartite graphs, Cartesian product of graphs, G-vertex multiplications and a survey on the existing results pertaining to the orientation numbers of graphs in these families.

Cheryl Praeger of the University of Western Australia has advised several Filipino graph theorists on their theses. She talked about "Decomposing Graphs Very Nicely." She was interested in "very nice" ways to decompose a given graph into isomorphic edge-disjoint subgraphs on the same given vertex set. A familiar example of a "nice" factorization is a self-complementary graph X of order n which, together with its complement, gives a factorization of the complete graph into two isomorphic edge-disjoint subgraphs on the same vertex set. This concept of "very nice" factorization in this example was explained. Some new and rather unexpected constructions of vertex-transitive, self-complementary graphs by Cai Heng Li and Praeger suggested that there might be equally "very nice" factorizations of the complete graph, and indeed of other vertex-transitive graphs, with more than two factors. The talk also included constructions and theory of "very nice" factorizations.

Jorge Urrutia of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico is one of the managing editors of the Journal of Computational Geometry. He talked about the topic "On the Combinatorics of Point Sets." He presented some extremal results and problems on planar point sets, including the maximum number of parallelograms and the minimum number of midpoints generated by a point set. Some results concerning the covering of midpoints by straight lines and the convex partitions of point sets were also discussed. Several aspects of his work were done with C. Zamora-Cura, T. Hernandes and F. Hurtado.

The guest of honor, Frank Harary of New Mexico State University, gave the final lecture on "Conditional Graph Theory." He discussed three graph invariants: connectivity, chromatic number and domination number. Variations on these and other invariants include the following: How many nodes must be deleted to obtain a bipartite subgraph? How many colors are needed for the nodes so that each color class induces a bipartite subgraph? What is the smallest number of disjoint paths whose nodes dominate G? What does Menger's Theorem become for various conditional connectivity invariants? What does the chromatic polynomial become when conditional colorability is used? Given a graph with n nodes and m edges, what is the smallest number of nodes in paths which realize the minimum and the maximum path-domination numbers, defined above? Other conditions include trees, cycles where meaningful, planar subgraphs and eulerian subgraphs.

The other plenary speaker was Janos Pach of New York University, who is editor of the "Handbook on Combinatorial Geometry." He recounted that he first learned graph theory from Harary's book translated into Russian. Details on the speakers and their work can be found in the site: www.graphtheory.com/resources.htm.

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" every Wednesday for www.inq7.net and can be reached at bless book@yahoo.com.*)*

PHYTOCHEMICALS

Are fruits and veggies the answer against cancer?

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

PERHAPS our parents and teachers were right when they said, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Indeed, there's more behind apples than helping us remember the first letter of the alphabet.

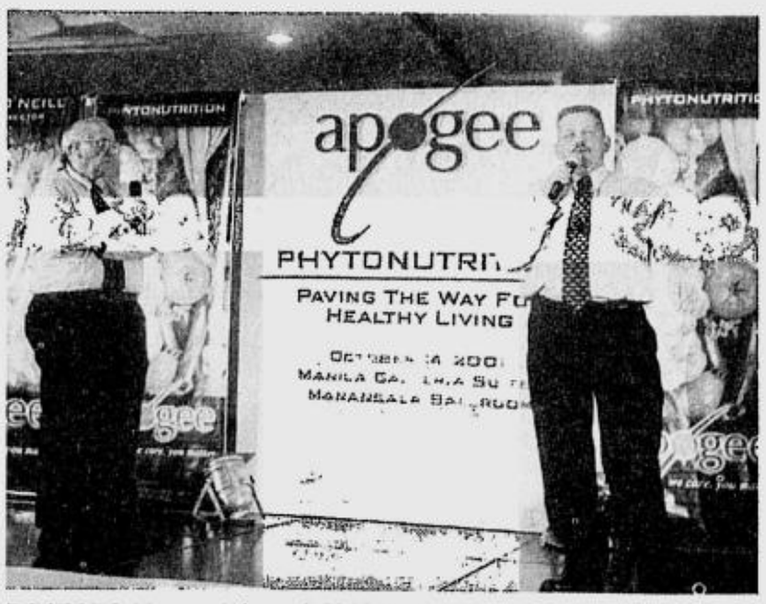
For years now, scientists have been slowly learning that fruits, vegetables including grains, legumes, seeds, licorice root, soy and green tea contain compounds that have potential in curing diseases like cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension—four of the leading causes of death in the United States.

Call them phytochemicals or nonnutritive plant chemicals that contain protective, disease-preventing compounds that were recently found to be involved in many processes including ones that help prevent cell damage, prevent cancer cell replication and decrease cholesterol levels.

At present, more than 900 different phytochemicals have been identified as components of food, and many more phytochemicals will continue to be discovered in the future. The good news is that scientists don't have to look for them deep in the jungles since these phytochemicals can be found in everyday foods.

Doctors Byron Kerr Murray and Kim O'Neill, two of the world's leading scientists researching on cancer technology and phytonutrition recently visited the Philippines to share their latest findings and show Filipinos how a change in lifestyle can prevent diseases.

Both doctors believe that phytonutrition is the best way to battle lifestyle diseases to which cancer ranks the highest. Lifestyle diseases refer to ailments caused primarily by unhealthy or unbalanced diet.



DOCTORS Murray, left, and O' Neill during the phytonutrition seminar sponsored by Apogee Inc.

"A simple change in lifestyle, such as letting go of the usual burger and fried food and trading it in for a nutritious salad, is a good start," advises Dr. Murray.

Plant-based diet

Though discovered more than a decade ago, the connection between plant-derived dietary ingredients and their healthful effects to the body is just beginning to be appreciated. This connection can explain much of the mystery why people living in developed countries lack dietary phytonutrients and thus suffer from lifestyle diseases.

Phytonutrition is the dietary use of phytochemicals found in plants. Adequate intake of specific phytochemicals can increase adaptive responses regulating hormone metabolism and cell behavior.

"Vegetables and herbs such as cabbage, peppermint and broccoli possess unique phytochemicals, constituents able to modify the metabolism of hormones and promote health," according to the two doctors.

Dr. Murray started in phytonutrition research in the mid-1980s when he began to work with compounds in plants that would kill viruses.

"We took plants from South America, Alaska and the United States. Then later on, vitamin research began to work on other chemicals found in plants, but this time involving those that we found in everyday diet. That was when I started looking at phytochemicals in garlic, and then broccoli, cabbage, onions etc.," relates Dr. Murray.

The research of Dr. Murray and Dr. O'Neill has led to a different approach in fighting cancer in the last 10 to 15 years.

"There have been lots of evidence that show phytochemicals playing a major role in the prevention not only of cancer but also lots of other diseases," reveals Dr. O'Neill. "It all comes down to a diet composed of lots of fruits and vegetables. What we are looking at now is what these fruits and vegetables are."

Due to age, the toxicity in chemicals we encounter every day, drug use, or inherent genetic weakness, we become weak against attack from various diseases. The two doctors' researches have demonstrated that these diseases can still be avoided.

"We now know that 70 percent of cancers can be prevented through lifestyle modification. Eating plenty of fruits and vegetables have been consistently shown to reduce the risk of many types of cancer," notes Dr. O'Neill.

Guidelines for cancer prevention

It is important to become aware of the types of food that we miss in our diet.

"Unlike most Asians and those from the Mediterranean, an average American consumes only one serving of vegetable and one serving of fruit each day. In one survey, it was found that one in every nine Americans ate no fruit or vegetable on the day they were interviewed," said Dr. Murray.

He suggested that to fight disease and to stay healthy, we must choose the food we eat from plant sources and limit our intake of high-fat foods, particularly from animal sources.

"Being physically active also helps. Achieve and maintain a healthy weight while limiting consumption of alcoholic beverages (if you drink at all) certainly will also help," adds Dr. O'Neill.

Increasing the consumption of plant products in one's diet should not be difficult or time consuming. There are plenty of simple strategies suggested by the American Cancer Society for increasing dietary fruits, vegetables and grains:

- Keep fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen, and canned) stocked and in sight.
- Reach for juice instead of coffee or soda.
- Add chopped fruit to cereal, yogurt, pancakes, muffins, or even a milkshake.
- Snack on freshly chopped carrots, celery, broccoli and cauliflower.
- Add fresh greens, carrots, celery, parsley, tomatoes and beans to your soups.
- Store dried fruit (apricots, dates, raisins, and more) for a quick snack at home or at work.

MOST COMMONLY STUDIED PHYTOCHEMICALS

Allyl sulfides found in allium vegetables (garlic, onions, chives, leeks).
Indoles/glucosinolates, Sulfaforaphane, Isothiocyanates/ thiocyanates, Thiols found in cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale, turnips, bok choy, kohlrabi).
Lycopene found in solanaceous vegetables (tomatoes, peppers).
Carotenoids, Phthalides, Polyacetylenes found in umbelliferous vegetables (carrots, celery, cilantro, parsley, parsnips).
Silymarin found in compositae plants (artichoke).
Monoterpenes (limonene), Carotenoids found in citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, grapefruit), glucarates.
Ellagic acid, Phenols, Flavonoids (quercetin) found in other fruits (grapes, berries, cherries, apples, cantaloupe, watermelon, pomegranate).
Flavonoids (isoflavones), Phytic acid, Saponins found in beans, grains, seeds (soybeans, oats, barley, brown rice, whole wheat, flax seed), protease inhibitors.
Gingerols, Flavonoids, Monoterpenes (limonene) found in herbs, spices (ginger, mint, rosemary, thyme, oregano, sage, basil, turmeric, caraway, fennel).
Glycyrrhizin, Catechins found in Licorice root, green tea, polyphenols.

SCIENCE/HEALTH
CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

A 'back-breaking' problem in Asia

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

OSTEOPOROSIS, which literally means "porous bone," may soon become a major health and economic problem in Asia.

This consensus came from a panel of bone specialists from the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, China, Taiwan and Malaysia during a meeting on osteoporosis in Hong Kong.

The panel said it expected osteoporotic fractures, which has been linked to the aging population in Asia, to rise exponentially.

Bone experts believe that if ignored, osteoporosis would not just pose a major health problem but also cause a major blow to the economy. By 2050, it is estimated that half of the world's osteoporotic fractures will occur in Asia because of the increasing number of the aged in the region. But some of the women who would be hit by the disease would still be in their productive ages of 45 to 50.

In the Philippines, a survey at the Philippine Orthopedic Center from 1979 to 1988 showed that 62.9 percent of the hospital's elderly patients suffered from fractures secondary to osteoporosis.

The study also revealed that of the patients who had fractures, 63 percent were at the femoral or pelvic area.

"This is a big issue. We just didn't see this before because most of the fracture patients went to just one hospital, which is the Philippine Orthopedic Center. But if we are going to look at the admissions, 63 percent of the admissions 50 years and above (age group) is secondary to osteoporosis," said Dr. Lyndon Llamado, University of Santo Tomas Hospital executive training officer for rheumatology and Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines (Ospi) public relations officer.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

There is a low level of awareness of osteoporosis among Asians

Filipino bone density

Ospi president Dr. Tito Torralba, head of the UST Hospital Joint and Bone Center, said a hospital study on 1,070 Filipinos looked into their variable bone mineral density. The results showed a statistically significant difference with more cases of osteopenia and osteporosis detected when Caucasian reference values were used.

Llamado explained that Filipino bone experts tried to come up with the normal Filipino reference value for osteoporosis-detecting machines after they realized that the Caucasian values were not applicable to Asian bones.

"How can you compare your bones to Americans who are huge? Definitely, your bones will appear fewer compared to an American. We're trying to come up with normal reference values now for Filipinos," he said.

Low calcium intake

Torralba cited another study on 30 randomly selected Filipino premenopausal women with low bone mass which showed that the common risk factors to their condition were low calcium intake and inadequate exercise.

A study by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology also looked into the nutrient intake of Filipino schoolchildren and pregnant women. This study also showed inadequate intake of calcium as common risk factors.

The Asian panel of bone experts recommended more information campaigns about osteoporosis as one major step in preventing the disease. They noted that there was still a low level of awareness of the disease among Asians, compared to Europeans.

In 1996, an osteoporosis study involving different Asian countries showed that four out of 10 Filipino women were aware of the disease. European awareness ranged a high eight to nine.

"The reason behind (the low awareness) is that they attribute the problem, such as the hunching of the back, to the normal aging process. I think the real issue now is to increase the level of their awareness that such problem really exists," Llamado said.

Hunched backs

Llamado lamented that Filipino elderly even think that a hunched back was a "status symbol".

"My patients would say that in the provinces, a hunched back would mean that you have been hardworking when you were young," he said.

Llamado added that many of his 70-year-old patients say that they're not going to die if they have hunched backs.

Today, more Filipinos are becoming aware of osteoporosis and its prevention. Referrals from doctors to have their patients' bone mineral density checked are actually increasing, said Llamado.

"Most of my elderly patients always ask about osteoporosis. We're on the right track, I guess. We just have to push it more," he said.

But most patients, he said, already have complications from the disease when they come to see the doctor.

Make no bones about osteoporosis

BY JOSE PUJALTE JR., M.D.

"I DON'T deserve this, but I have arthritis, and I don't deserve that either," said US actor Jack Benny (1894-1974) when accepting an award.

In this physical life, wear and tear is the name of the game. We wear out anything where use involves friction. That means brake pads, toothbrushes, shoes and tires. Unfortunately, our very own joints, especially the weight bearing ones such as the hips and knees are subject to similar abrasive forces. In fact, osteoarthritis or degenerative arthritis is also known as the "wear and tear" disease. Anytime you're through with the meat of that fried chicken, take a close look at the bone ends. You will see that it is smooth and white. That's how joints should be. That's how they are **not** in arthritis.

When diseased, the joint's white part wears thin. That's bound to hurt because then you'll have bone rubbing bone each time you move. Joint diseases account for **half** of all chronic conditions of persons over 65 worldwide. Think about it. There will always be two or three aunts in the Christmas reunion with aching joints.

If no cause can be found, OA is primary. That's just your doctor's clever way of saying that you have arthritis but he doesn't know where it came from! Sometimes a cause can be found. The usual suspects include infection, a bad accident involving the joint, or gout.

Will a person with osteoarthritis become a cripple overnight? By the way it is described medically—degenerative, there is a hint that it is a slow, insidious process. The cardinal symptom of OA is **joint pain** that can be described as constant, made worse by moving, but made tolerable by rest.

The patient with arthritis will complain "I feel as stiff as a corpse in the morning," or "My body feels like a diesel engine. It takes time to get it running."

Risk factors. Does it then mean that there is no escape from shot joints? A good answer to this demands the awareness of risk factors. As mentioned, a **major accident** to the joints can lead to OA. **Obesity** will increase the chances of destroying the knees. Even if you are not sumo wrestler-heavy, remember that half your weight goes through one knee and the other half on the other. When the load is just too much, the joints go early. **Age** is the most powerful risk factor. Simply put, as age increases, so does the prevalence of OA. Women are twice as likely as men to be affected, making **gender** a related variable.

Prevention. Are there ways of avoiding osteoarthritis? Obviously, if there are underlying causes that are in themselves controllable, there is hope. Losing weight is one, avoiding contact sports as we get older is another. An exciting supplement in the market right now is glucosamine sulfate. By stopping the white part of the bone ends from wearing out, glucosamine prevents or delays OA. It is also used to relieve pain.

Diagnosis. When does your doctor (preferably a rheumatologist, a physiatrist or rehabilitation medicine doctor, or an orthopedic surgeon) say you have osteoarthritis? He will rely initially on physical findings and X-rays. Suspicions of other forms of arthritis will be confirmed by the specific lab exam result (for example, high uric acid in gouty arthritis).

Treatment. Your doctor will first try to lessen arthritic pain through tablets or capsules. Available drugs include acetaminophen and NSAIDs (nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs). Common NSAIDs are ibuprofen, mefenamic acid, piroxicam, diclofenac and tenoxicam. These are effective but long-term use may cause stomach bleeding. More recently, a new antiarthritic drug rofecoxib (Vioxx) has been shown not to cause gastric irritation. Your doctor, having staged your osteoarthritis, may instruct you to lose weight. He may also show exercises that strengthen muscles around the affected joint, prescribe a cane or walker to unload the arthritic joint, or even ask the physical therapist to apply heat.

Surgery. Burned out joints are very painful. The patient will be forced to move less and will want to stay at home and sit down. So there goes the golf and ballroom dancing. At this point, much of the joint's protective white has worn out and raw bone is now raking through adjacent bone. To this problem, your doctor will now most likely recommend **joint replacement.** The old joint will be removed surgically and replaced with an artificial one made of metal and plastic. There are three goals in joint replacement: to relieve pain, to restore function and to achieve stability. Because joint replacement is a major operation, you must know if these will be gained.

Osteoarthritis is one of those conditions that people do not die of but live with. It is for this reason that as a medical menace, its impact must be lessened and its consequences prevented. Life is movement. Stiffness and stasis lead to death.

Fact/Factoid. Drinking green tea, popularly known as Japanese tea, may be good for you. It contains an antioxidant compound 100 times more effective than Vitamin C and 25 times better than Vitamin E in preventing cell damage.

Bioterror can lurk in the water

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

PUBLIC concern has been focused on the terrorist who might use biological weapons by contaminating the air, not the drinking water systems.

Recently, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco called on the authorities "not to dismiss as mere bluff" the reported threat of the Abu Sayyaf to contaminate local water supplies. He advised the authorities to closely watch the country's water reservoirs and supply lines.

Indeed, biological weapons are most effective if dispersed in the air. But because all eyes are focused on aerosol sprays, crop dusters and powders in the mail, people might forget that some enterprising terrorists might employ a much simpler means—that which only require finding an unsuspecting water repository where people source their drinking water.

Several pathogens (e.g., anthrax, Clostridium perfringens, plague) and biotoxins (e.g., botulinum, aflatoxin, ricin) used as biological weapons are potentially resistant to disinfection through chlorination and are stable for relatively long periods in water, according to a report from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The same report said that although water provides some dilution potential, any neutrally buoyant particle can used to disperse human pathogens in drinking water systems.

The effectiveness of an attack can be enhanced through the introduction of the biological weapon near the tap, such as in the distribution system (postdisinfection). The report also says that water storage and distribution systems facilitate delivery of an effective dose of toxicant to a potentially very large population, as well as a lower-level chronic dose (for chemicals) with longer-term effects and lower-detection thresholds.

Although the probability of a terrorist threat to drinking water is extremely low, the consequences could be very severe for exposed populations. Thus, there is a need to focus on detecting threats from biological terrorism, as well as other catastrophic events in drinking water supply, and preventing human exposure wherever possible.

The only way to prevent this catastrophe is by putting up effective deterrents against would-be terrorists: better security and monitoring for contaminants should be installed both in the water source and water distribution systems.

"The consequences of a successful biological attack, especially if the infection were readily communicable, could far exceed those of a chemical or even a nuclear event," said the World Medical Association last week during its convention in Ferney-Voltaire, France.

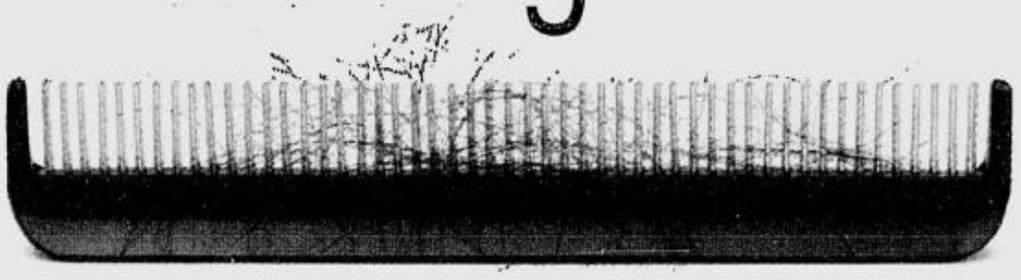
"Given the ease of travel and increasing globalization, an outbreak anywhere in the world could be a threat to all nations."

Terrorist threat or not, today would still be a good time to take a look at the water we drink.

People who are suspicious of their water source may treat the water through the simplest method—by boiling it for two minutes then allowing it to cool. Boiled water can be made to taste better by putting it in a container with a lid and then shaking it to aerate the water.

Those who do not want to drink water from the tap may also choose to buy bottled water. You can still use tap water for cooking (as long as it is brought to a boil) but use bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, making ice cubes and for use in recipes where water is required but not brought to a boil (like salad dressings).

Thinning Hair?



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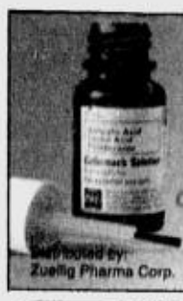
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TRAVOLTA. Fascination with the criminal mind.

HACKMAN. Goes for gold in "Heist."

Heist films thrive in Hollywood

BY DAVID GERMAIN

TORONTO—The venerable heist flick, whose roots stretch back to the earliest days of film, is having a banner year.

Cheerleaders

Everyone from cheerleaders to Elvis impersonators to hypnotized insurance-agency workers are having a go at robbing from the rich to give to themselves.

What's the fascination with watching characters break the law?

"Pauline Kael, rest in peace, said it: 'Kiss kiss, bang bang.' We sit in the dark with our friends to have our forbidden pleasures," said David Mamet, who premiered his caper "Heist" at the Toronto International Film Festival. Gene Hackman stars as leader of a team that pulls off a bold runway robbery of a plane's gold cargo.

Safety valve

"Every society's got to have a safety valve," Mamet said.

"Instead of getting drunk and gnashing our flesh and feeding our children to the sun god, we go to the movies to obtain some release, whether that's in laughter or sexual prurience or crime."

One of the earliest narrative films was a heist flick, the silent short "The Great Train Robbery," made by Edwin S. Porter in 1903. Hollywood has followed with an endless line of heist films, from "White Heat" to "Dog Day Afternoon" to "Reservoir Dogs."

Government fund

"I know that from 'Public Enemy No. 1' to 'Bonnie and Clyde,' there's always been this fascination with the criminal mind," said John Travolta, who starred as a mastermind stealing billions from a government fund in "Swordfish." "Either you understand it and identify with it or you don't understand and don't identify with it; but somehow, either way it's fascinating."

So far this year, Kevin Costner and Kurt Russell led a band of Elvis-clad thieves that pulls a casino robbery in "3000 Miles to Graceland;" the Jesse James gang rode again in "American Outlaws;" and Robert De Niro, Marlon Brando and Edward Norton lifted a priceless scepter in "The Score."

Breaking the rules

"Also, thieves fascinate people who, let's face it, break the rules," said Piers Handling, Toronto festival director. "It's like rock stars. It's always great to see people who can live outside the rules." Brothers Albert and Allen Hughes, who directed the heist flick "Dead Presidents," said heroes in movies often can be upstaged by villains. *AP*

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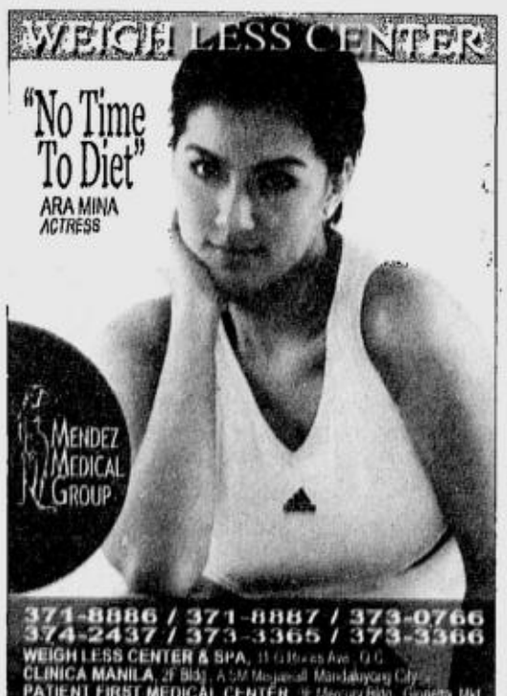

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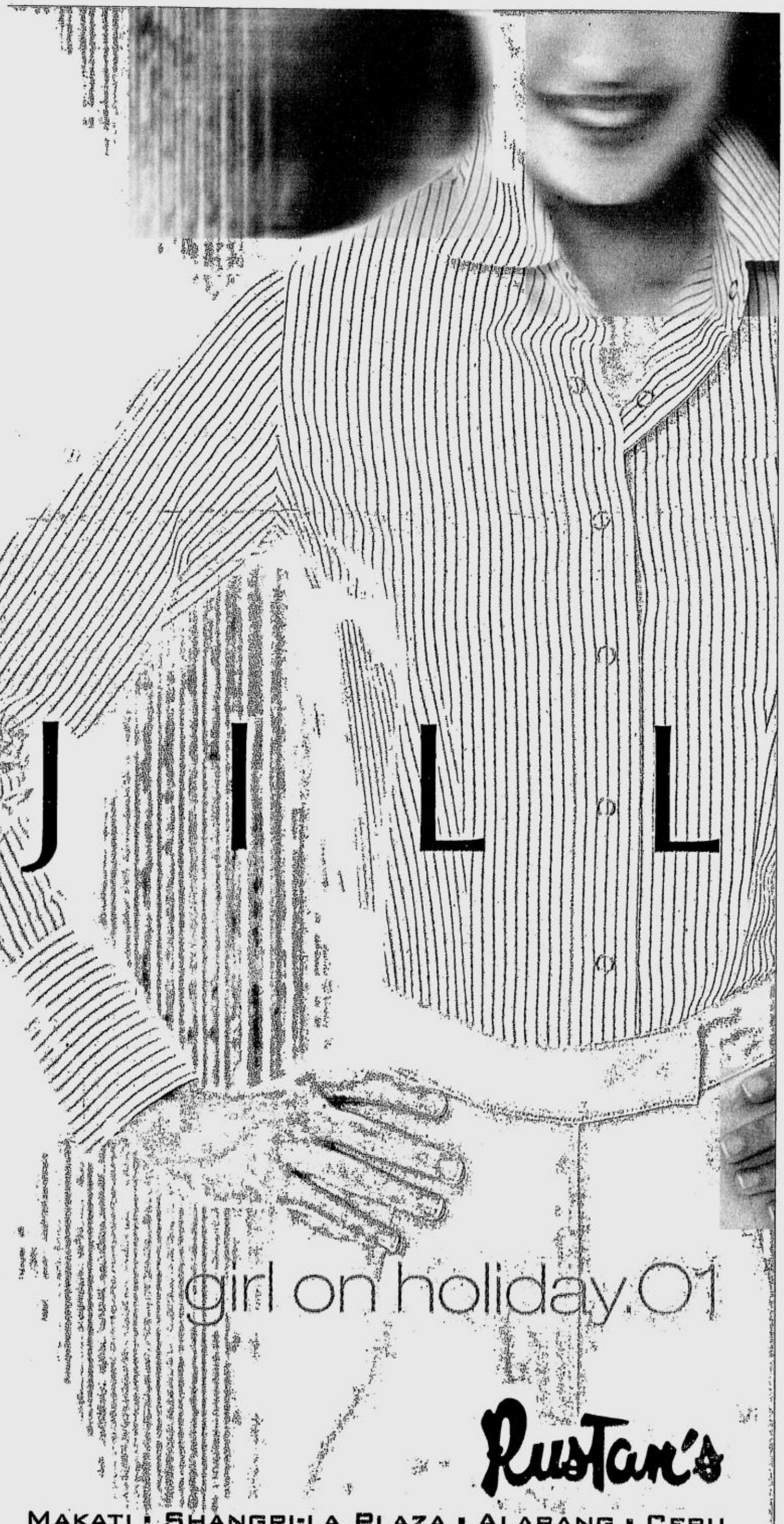


Sheer joy in dance

BY BEHN CERVANTES

IT isn't very often that you leave a dance performance heaping unrestrained praise on all parties responsible for its artistic success. This only happens when you witness a magical performance of unadulterated joy. Because the performance is so captivating, you want to rush up to the stage and embrace all of the dancers. You have to let them know how they touched you, how they made your day. In my case, they made a weekend!

Ecstatic

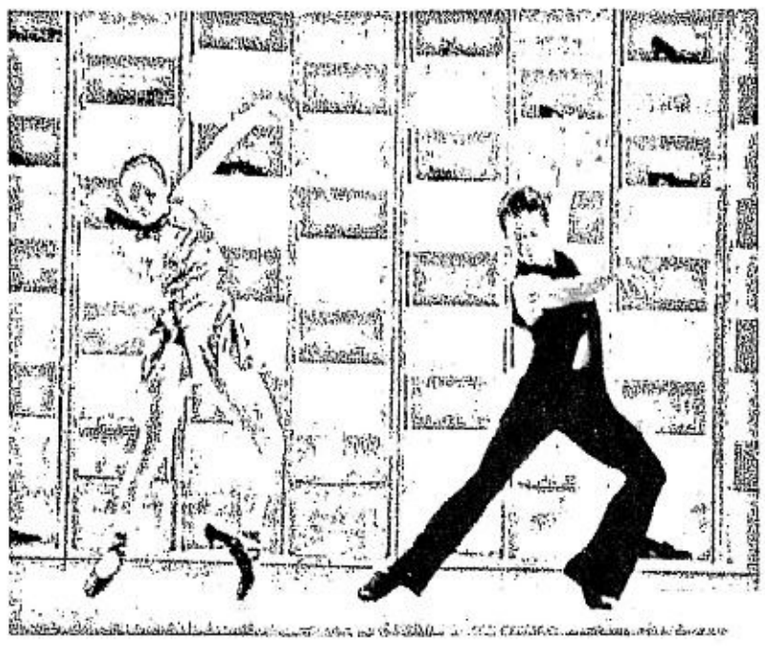
I am ecstatic about "Shoes," the latest offering of Ballet Philippines. If you haven't seen it, what are you waiting for? Head immediately for the Cultural Center of the Philippines and give yourself a treat. Better yet, give your family a treat. If you have children even slightly interested in the arts, take them. You will thereafter have lovers of dance as a pleasant result of this lively, deeply moving show. Repeats, please?

The Saturday performance earned a well-deserved standing ovation. The perfect blending of art, content, energy and joy is magically achieved by talents so captivating that you get up to give them a standing ovation at the end of the thrilling show. Hoy, it's the least you can do.

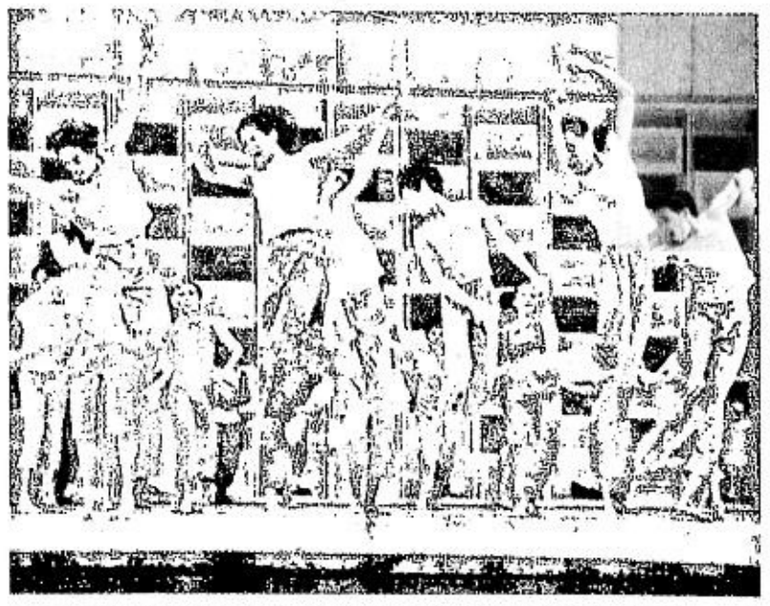
You are awed not only by the quality of the performance, but you are equally appreciative of the concept, the artistic and social intentions, as well as the final molding of all artistic and technical components of the production.

Everyone must be congratulated for the evocative numbers—artistic director Denisa Reyes, the innovative choreographers, the dozens and dozens of dancers, especially the young tots that Tony Fabella, Eddie Elejar and Luther Perez showcased, all deserve a round of lusty applause, and more.

How often do we try to combine commerce with art to serve a need in our society? More often than not, we praise the effort but accept the limitations. Maybe, next time they will succeed, we pray.



GEORGETTE SANCHEZ AND ARDEE DIONISIO: Toeing the line.



'TAMBOL AT PADYAK.' As exuberant as a child's laughter.

Artistic and popular success

"Shoes" hits the nail right on the head. It is both an artistic *and* popular success. The audience reaction clearly showed it. "Shoes" chooses the right ingredients and translates movement into poetry, fun and art. I really loved it.

Kids who don't think they can dance will change their young minds after seeing this show. In fact, after the performance, I heard one kid state without hesitation "I can do that!" He probably could, too, if given the chance.

Those who have been alienated by esoteric ballet numbers will have new insights on what the art is all about after witnessing "Shoes." What makes the show all the more transfixing is the realization that you are watching the creations of Filipino talents who produce, yes, world-class material.

The set by Ed Sicangco is visually attractive, providing a background and the proper space for the energetic dances. Katch Catoy's lights are equally impressive, giving each dance added ambience and mood. The music, too is highly commendable and wonderfully arranged.

Spellbound

While I appreciated the earlier numbers by different young choreographers, I was especially spellbound by Cecile Sicangco's neoclassic ".2." Sheer poetry in motion, it was. You have to be a lyric poet to write the proper paean to this masterpiece.

I can only say that my hair stood on end and I wished I could have embraced the choreographer and all her dancers immediately after the number. Alas, I had to wait till the great show was over.

Being so captivated by ".2.," I was not ready to be transported to still another high. This time, it was of pure joy. Tony Fabella's "Tambol at Tadyak," with music by Samuel Agustin and Malek Lopez of Pinikpikan, was as delicious as dirty ice cream, as fun as *patintero* and as exuberant as a child's laughter.

The high-octane number was performed by dozens of young children, some mere tots. It was all the more meaningful because the children come from urban poor communities afforded the training of dance by a city government, under the tutelage of fine dancers with a social vision.

New albums from Viva and BMG

EIGENMANN. His album was produced by Regine Velasquez.

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

RECORD companies need to make lots of noise when they launch a new album, the better to announce to all and sundry that there's something new to get excited about.

Viva Records chose the Megamall Megastrip to introduce a new recording artist—actor Gabby Eigenmann, who has just come out with his debut album, "Loving."

First offering

What makes the event significant is that it's the first offering from Regine Velasquez's Songbird Music. Why did Regine choose to work on Gabby's album as her initial project? "It's because I really believe in his potential," says Regine. "That's why I asked him to rap with KC Montero on the song 'For the Love of You' in my 'R2K' album."

Gabby is flattered by Regine's confidence in him. To prepare for the recording sessions, he took voice lessons with Edward Granadosin of 3 of a Kind and was coached by Zebedee Zuñiga of The Opera, who also produced the album's vocals.

During the Megastrip launch, Viva artists like Angelika de la Cruz, Maxine, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Dingdong Dantes, Cacai Velasquez and of course, Regine, came to perform and show their support for Gabby.

The biggest applause came for Regine, of course, but Gabby got his share of appreciation from the mostly young crowd.

Quieter launch

To launch "Bandang Pinoy, Lasang Hotdog," BMG had a quieter event. It invited the press for lunch at Don Henrico's West ave. to talk to Rene Garcia, one of the original members of Hotdog. The album brings together some of the country's top bands to perform Hotdog's music.

Eraserheads sings "Manila," Barbie's Crade interprets "Langit Na Naman," Cookie Chua belts out "Pers Lab," Parokya Ni Edgar takes a crack at "Beh Buti Nga," and True Faith dishes out "Ikaw Ang Miss Universe." Other featured bands are Aquarella giving a samba beat to "O, Lumapit Ka," Ascolto with "Annie Batungbakal" and Chill with "Dying to Tell You."

The Hotdog was created by Rene and Dennis Garcia in 1974 after they spent one year in the US with their band Red Fox. Joining them were Ella del Rosario, Jess Garcia, Lorrie Ilustre and Mon Torralba. The group pioneered in what would eventually be called the Manila sound, a term the group originated.

Vocalist

When Ella left the group, Dennis wrote and produced "O Lumapit Ka" for her. She was replaced by Gina Montes, who interpreted "Panaginip." In 1979, a 15-year-old vocalist, Maso Diez, daughter of television executive Ramy Diez, joined the group and stayed the longest. Another vocalist joined them in 1982—Zsa Zsa Padilla, who sang the vocals for "Careful, Careful," which would later become the theme song of Inday Badiday's show biz talk show.

Today, Dennis works for an ad agency while Rene continues to compose advertising jingles and perform occasionally at concerts.

Troy Montero is more than just a product endorser

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

THEY say that when a woman's eyes sparkle, she is in love. The same thing can be said of handsome hunk Troy Montero, whose current relationship with starlet Nikki Valdez he considers "the most wonderful thing that happened in my life."

Nasty comments

No amount of nasty comments can ruin their love for one another. "They don't really know us when we are together. We are more than buddies and we joke a lot. She is not only beautiful but also has a terrific sense of humor. We share a lot of things, we are hard-headed and can be very moody," he says.

Troy doesn't believe in long engagements. "Once we announce our engagement, the wedding will immediately follow. But that won't happen soon. We are still strengthening our relationship. We know what we feel towards one another but there are no commitments. We don't believe in planning," he affirms.

The Fil-Am talent is busy with TV and commercial appearances, hosting jobs and out of town shows. A month ago, he became the PIMS (Philippine International Marketing Services Inc.) image model. PIMS is a customer support center and consumer based firm, having expanded to selling prepaid cards. These cards are distributed in Japan, USA and Hong Kong. As part of his role, Troy's photographs appear in PIMS pre-paid cards, billboards and other promotional materials.

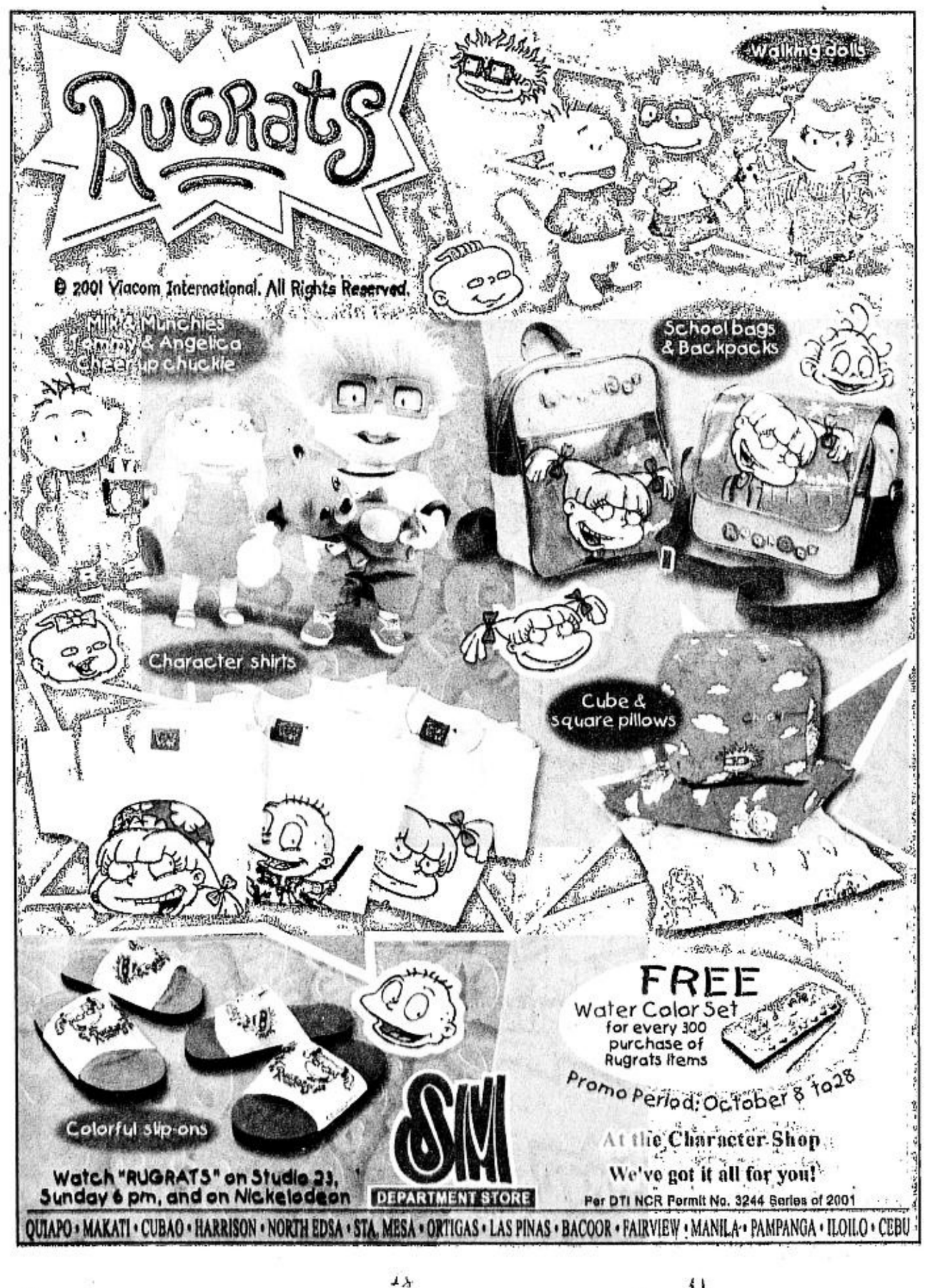
Big concert

A big concert to be produced by PIMS will be staged on Feb. 3, 2002 at Nakano Sun Plaza Hall in Japan with special participation from Troy and Pops Fernandez.

Not everybody knows that Troy loves to sing and it is his desire to excel in the recording field. He awaits the completion of his debut album under Dyna. The project has had a slow start due to some disagreement over the songs to be featured in the album. Dyna prefers ballads while Troy favors fast numbers *ala* Ricky Martin.

Blessed with matinee-idol looks, Troy is not keen on making movies because of his poor Tagalog. "It is fun to act but I am not cut out to be an actor. But I enjoy the experience, specially when they made me play a villain in my movie opposite Robin and Vina," he admits.

MONTERO. No wedding bells, for now.



'The World of Music' returns to Shangri-La Plaza Mall today

"THE WORLD of Music (TWM)" returns today at 5 p.m. at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Grand Atrium, 2nd floor) in Mandaluyong City featuring the Manila Symphony Orchestra 2 (MSO-2 formerly the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra) under the baton of Prof. Arturo Molina. Now on its fourth year, TWM will treat everyone to an afternoon of fun, learning and great music. Hosts are Angelique Lazo and Prof. Johnny Ramos. Admission is free.

Original numbers

MSO2 will reprise two of the original numbers it performed two years ago: Theme from "Superman" and "Winter Games." The two numbers have been requested by TWM followers to be played again by the orchestra. Philippine regional music, rock selections and pop classical pieces are also part of the repertoire.

In its four seasons, TWM has brought on stage talented and popular musical artists like Judith Banal, Toti Fuentes, Carla Gutierrez, John Lesaca, Butch Montejo, among others. Angelique Lazo herself has jammed with the featured groups and displayed her vocal talent.

Springboard

TWM has also been a springboard for many classical performers and has exposed young, aspiring musical performers like the MSO2 to the public. It has also featured the UP Symphonic Band, UP Jazz Ensemble and many others.

TWM is now on its fourth year. Launched in 1998, TWM pioneered the concept of bringing orchestral music to the malls. It aims to raise the appreciation of classical music among people. Through the years, TWM has been sponsored by Tissot Swiss Watches.

Teen TV stars are more than their characters on 'G-mik'

BY JOCELYN VALLE

CHANNEL 2's Saturday afternoon program "G-mik" is not unlike other youth shows that dramatize teenagers' joys, sorrows, angst, dreams and fun times. The difference (well, aside from having its own line of clothes and merchandising): it features former child stars Camille Prats, Angelica Panganiban, John Prats, Stefano Mori, Carlo Aquino and Janus del Prado, whose acting credits exceed most adult performers' accomplishments in the biz.

Accolades

Carlo has won accolades for his sensitive portrayal of a boy longing for his father in "Bata, Bata...Paano Ka Ginawa," including the 1999 Film Academy's best supporting actor trophy. In Marilou Diaz-Abaya's current project on Mindanao, "Bagong Buwan," Carlo is expected to match the intensity of his costars, admired actors Cesar Montano, Jericho Rosales and Nonie Buencamino.

Likewise an award winner, Stefano was chosen as the best new male actor in the 1997 Star Awards for Movies and, in the same year, was nominated as best supporting actor by the Manunuri for making the character of a rebellious orphan boy in "May Nagmamahal sa 'Yo" real and sympathetic.

Versatility

Janus del Prado is probably the youngest character actor around, having shown reliability and versatility in movies like "Baby Love," "Magic Kingdom," "Scorpio Nights 2" and "Sa Piling ng Aswang," and in drama series like "Maalaala Mo Kaya," where he shone in one episode and was nominated for best actor by the Star Awards for TV.

Camille became a star when "Sarah, Ang Munting Prinsesa" hit it big at the box-office a few years ago. Her costar, Angelica Panganiban, was likewise noticed by moviegoers, and the public saw the two misses as future superstars and award-winning actresses.

John, on the other hand, is a heartthrob, who hopes to follow in the footsteps of his idol, Aga Muhlach. He gets more than his share of shrieks from adoring female (and trying-to-be-female) fans as he plays the drums for the boy band, JCS, along with Carlo and Stefano.

Aside from "G-mik," the teeners appear, either as mainstays or guests, on various shows on ABS-CBN. Ditto for their costars, newcomers Miko Samson, Heart Evangelista, Danilo Barrios and Angelene Aguilar.

Another thing that's different about the "G-mik" cast: they are more than their celluloid characters and their status as teen stars. For instance, Miko and Angelica do well in school, Ateneo de Manila and St. Vincent, respectively. They don't have problems with their subjects and are even active in extra-curricular activities.

Features editor

Angelica, in fact, was part of the juniors' cheering squad that won at their school's intramurals. She is also the features editor of their school organ, Pagsibol.

Although Angelica, 15, wasn't able to get to know her journalist great-grandfather, she wants to be just like him. After high school, she intends to take up journalism, mass communications or creative writing.

Angelica, who plays the go-getter Jelai on "G-mik," has learned to love acting, but if things don't work out for her in show biz, she plans to have a second career in writing.

PANGANIBAN AND SAMSON. Do well in school, despite their busy show biz schedules.

Just like Angelica, Miko devours anything in print. "There was a time when my grades were slipping," he recalls, "and my mom ordered me not to watch TV and use my cell phone. The only thing I could do was to read. But I got tired of reading my textbooks so I ended up reading anything and everything else, including labels of shampoo bottles!"

After reading all of the volumes of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter," Miko is now deep into J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, starting with the first book, "The Fellowship of the Ring." He can hardly wait for director Peter Jackson's movie version of the well-loved literary classic.

Delight

However, Miko's all-time favorite book is "Trainspotting." "It is so real," he gushes. But, no, he's not into heroin, like the characters in the book. Asked if he would do a role similar to Ewan McGregor's in the film version, Miko's eyes widen in delight and he exclaims, "Why not?"

He doesn't mind playing a young boy being seduced by a 30-year-old woman. "I'd like to go experimental in the roles I do," he avers, adding that movies like "The Devil's Advocate" intrigue him.

"Because the situation is very clear," he explains. "We are given choices and sometimes we really screw things up. Problems come to us and we're given the chance to back out, but we still make the wrong choice—just like Keanu Reeves in the movie."

Miko loves poetry, too. He admires William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe and Pablo Neruda, and likewise commends singer-poet Jewel's book of verses, "A Night Without Armor." He tries writing free verse, and hopes that when he enters college next year, he'll be published in Ateneo's literary journal.

He also plays golf and just like his character Tonsy on "G-mik," he's into computers, hoping to become a physicist or computer analyst in the future.

Don't worry, the 17-year-old cutie is no geek. Just like boys his age, he gets lost in video games like Diablo and he enjoys surfing the net and his TV set is glued to music channels. He also hangs out with pals like John Prats.

Miko credits his parents (his dad is a lawyer while his mom used to teach at Miriam College) for letting him grow up with an open mind and to have a balanced life.

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AM/FM

Stars on drugs, poverty and surgery

BY RITO P. ASILO

LARUSSO may be one of the most successful post-modern dance crossover artists to emerge from the French pop scene. Her latest single, "Entre Nous," is slowly but surely infiltrating the FM airwaves the way her first Manila hit did.

Rewarded

Recently, we caught the song thrice till we decided we had had enough of it and switched to 97.9 MegaManila's "Sunday Goldrush." We were beautifully rewarded!

The line-up was varied, and brought us on a roller-coaster ride of melodic poetry down memory lane. Behind these artists were colorful, intriguing stories. To break the monotony of hearing just war stories on the radio these days, we've decided to share some of their interesting stories with you:

Our top pick was a young Michael Jackson cooing a satiny "Happy" ("Sadness had been close as my next of kin, then happy came one day..."). We wonder how Jackson really is these days. Have you seen how scary he looked on the MTV of his latest single, "You Rock My World?" He was whiter than any Caucasian we know!

What's even worse, the new single topped only at No. 10 in Billboard's Top 100, a far cry from the record supremacy he enjoyed in the '80s and '90s!

Then, this was followed by Cliff Richard—Sir Cliff, to commoners like you and me—and his ever familiar lines, "Visions of you in shapes of blue . . .smoking, shifting..."

Hit singles

Richard was Britain's answer to Elvis Presley. Born Harry Webb, he dominated the pre-Beatles British pop scene in the late '50s and early '60s. Backed by The Shadows (those clean-cut instrumental virtuosos who also became legends), Richard had an awesome string of hit singles in the UK, scoring no less than 43 Top 20 hits between 1958 and 1969!

But his popularity in his homeland was diminished by the rise of the Beatles. He had a tougher time in the US, hitting the Top 40 only twice (1959's "Living Doll" and "It's All In the Game" in 1963). He belatedly cracked the US Top 10 in 1976 with "Devil Woman," and his "I Just Don't Have A Heart" was on the dance charts in the '80s for weeks.

In 1997, he wrote, produced and starred as the brooding title character in the well-received musical, "Heathcliff," opposite Olivia Newton-John's Scarlett O'Hara, which produced a haunting love duet, "Used To Be." The play enjoyed a successful run in London, and Richard remains an institution in Britain.

In the Philippines, Jose Mari Chan was referred to as the country's answer to Cliff Richards in the '60s.

The rest of the line-up is worth mentioning: Andy Gibb's "(Our Love) Don't Throw It All Away," recently revived by Jennifer Love Hewitt; The Supremes' "Stop! In the Name of Love;" Percy Faith's "Go Away Little Girl;" Lulu's "To Sir With Love;" VST & Co.'s "Ikaw Ang Aking Mahal;" Michael Johnson's "Just Tell Me You Love Me;" Tina Charles's "Why" and Melissa Manchester's "Looking Through the Eyes of Love," the love theme from the five-hanky movie, "The Ice Castles."

Career revival

The Bee Gees experienced a career revival in 1977 with the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack. By then, the Gibb brothers' younger sibling, Andy, began his own solo career.

His first three singles ("I Just Want to Be Your Everything," "(Love Is) Thicker Than Water" and a personal favorite, the infectious "Shadow Dancing"), all hit No. 1. Three more consecutive Top 10 hits followed, cementing his "overnight sensation" status.

Interestingly, his boy-next-door image led him to doing duets with the likes of Olivia Newton-John ("I Can't Help It") and—yes—even former "Dallas" star, Victoria Principal ("All I Have to Do Is Dream"). In 1980, Andy's streak of Top 10 hits began to slip. The following year, he had his last Top 40 hit, "Me (Without You)."

After a brief stint as the host of "Solid Gold," he turned to acting, but failed to replicate the enormous success of his recording career. He developed a cocaine addiction, which led to his death from an inflammatory heart virus. He was only 30 years old!

PREVENTION Corner

Eat to Beat Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis, which literally means porous bones, is a skeletal disease in which bones gradually lose their density over a long period of time, making them weak and susceptible to fractures.

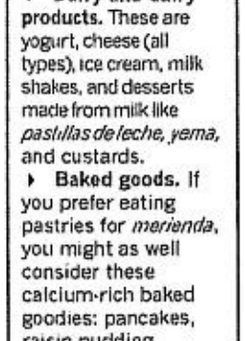
While milk helps prevent osteoporosis, there are other foods that can also do the job. Regular consumption of these items can help you reduce the risk of developing osteoporosis.

- **Fruits and vegetables.** Soy nuts, either dry roasted or processed as tofu, are good calcium sources. Other sources: cooked spinach and other green-leafy vegetables such as *malunggay* leaves, *saluyot*, *alugbati*, and *mustasa*. For calcium-rich fruits, try oranges, mangoes, and bananas.
- **Meat, fish, and poultry products.** Beneficial bone-builders include sardines eaten with the spine (or *tinik*). Also, include in your diet clams and oysters, *dilis*, small shrimps (*alamang*), roasted chicken drumstick, and water-packed tuna.
- **Dairy and dairy products.** These are yogurt, cheese (all types), ice cream, milk shakes, and desserts made from milk like *pastillas de leche*, *yema*, and custards.
- **Baked goods.** If you prefer eating pastries for *merienda*, you might as well consider these calcium-rich baked goodies: pancakes, raisin pudding, sponge cake, cheese cupcake, and toasted bread.

Adding nonfat powdered dry milk to some meals is another easy and economical way to boost the calcium content of these meals.

You can further reduce the risk of developing osteoporosis by living a healthy lifestyle.

For more health information, see this month's issue of *Prevention* magazine. Available at selected bookstores, drug stores, magazine stands and health food stores. For subscription inquiries, call 637-2200.



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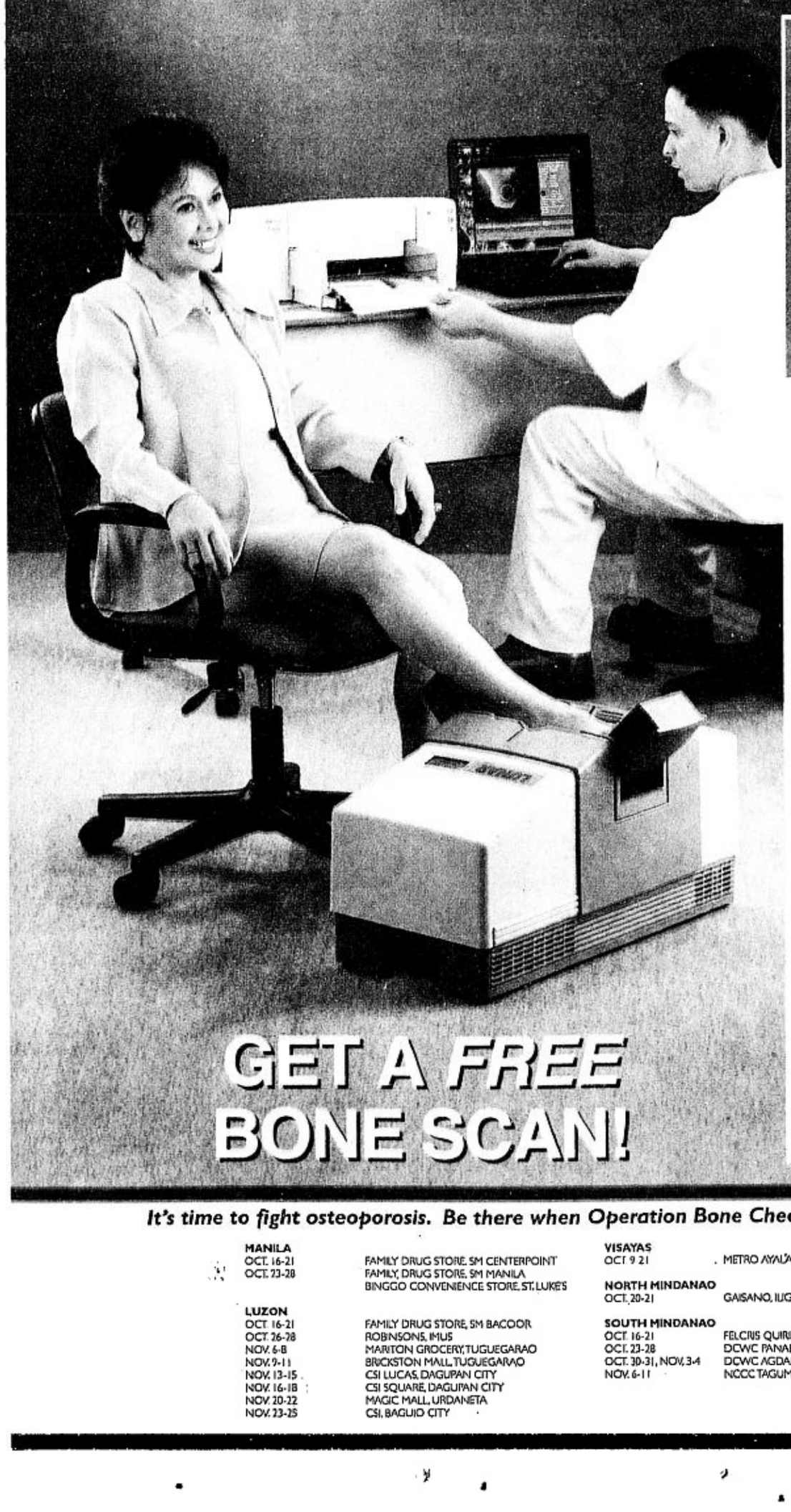

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OCT. 26-28 ROBINSONS, IMUS
NOV. 6-8 MARITON GROCERY, TUGUEGARAO
NOV. 9-11 BRICKSTON MALL, TUGUEGARAO
NOV. 13-15 CSI LUCAS, DAGUPAN CITY
NOV. 16-18 CSI SQUARE, DAGUPAN CITY
NOV. 20-22 MAGIC MALL, URDANETA
NOV. 23-25 CSI, BAGUIO CITY

VISAYAS
OCT. 9-21 METRO AYALA, CEBU

NORTH MINDANAO
OCT. 20-21 GAISANO, ILIGAN CITY

SOUTH MINDANAO
OCT. 16-21 FELCRIS QUIRINO, DAVAO CITY
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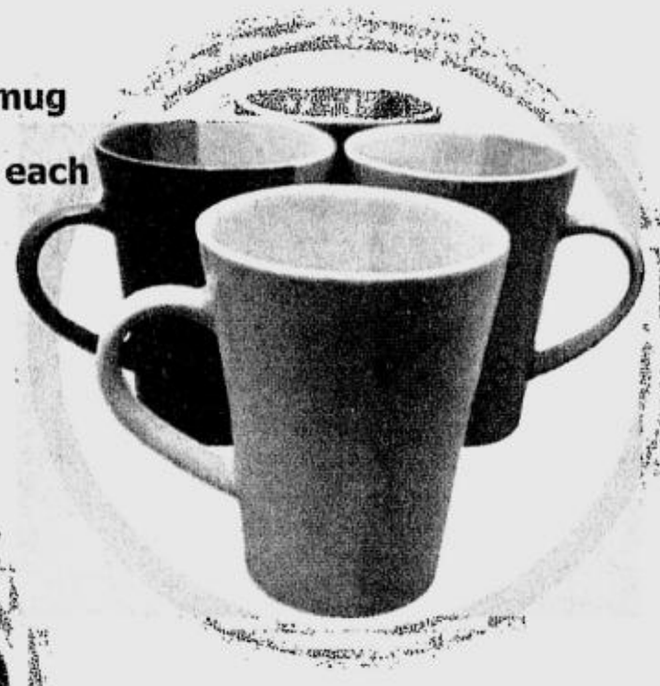

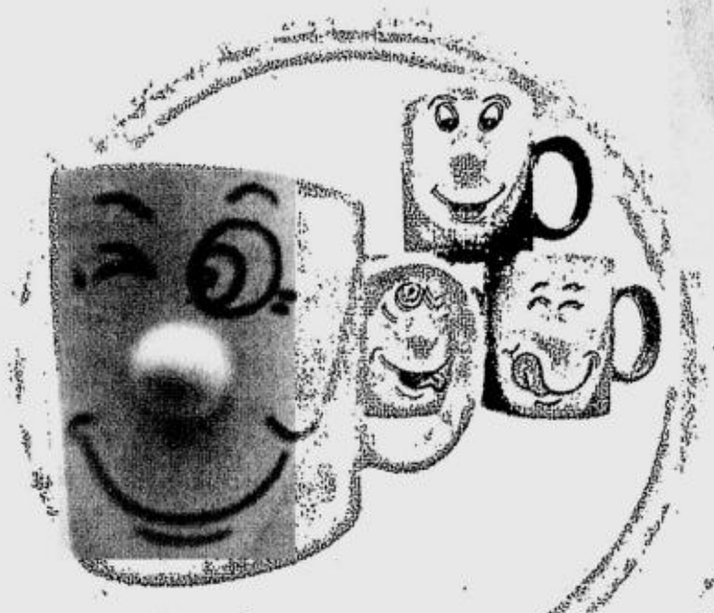

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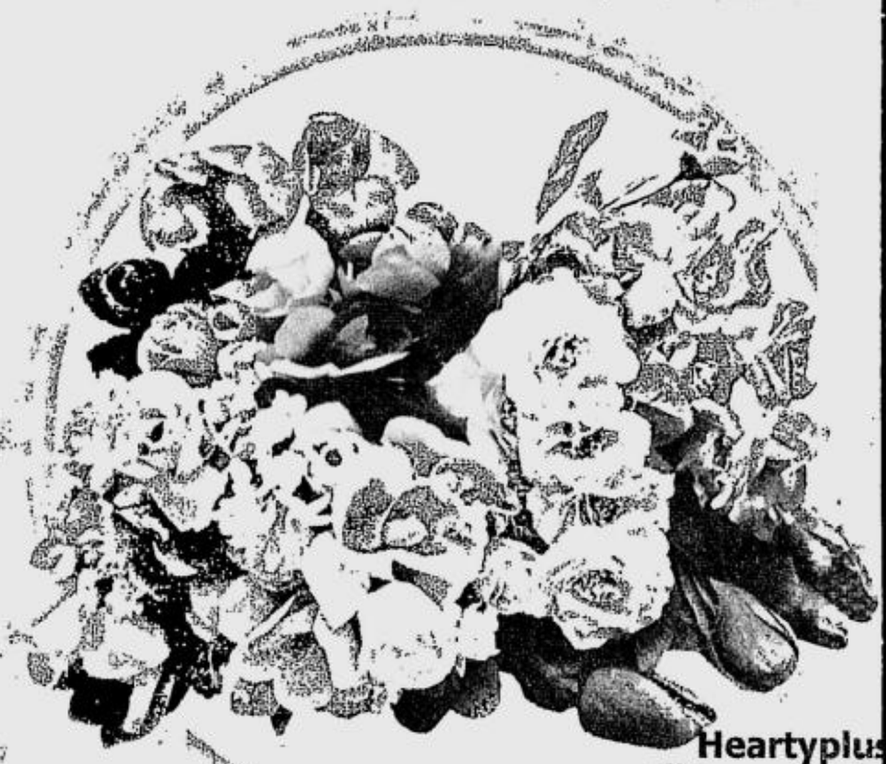

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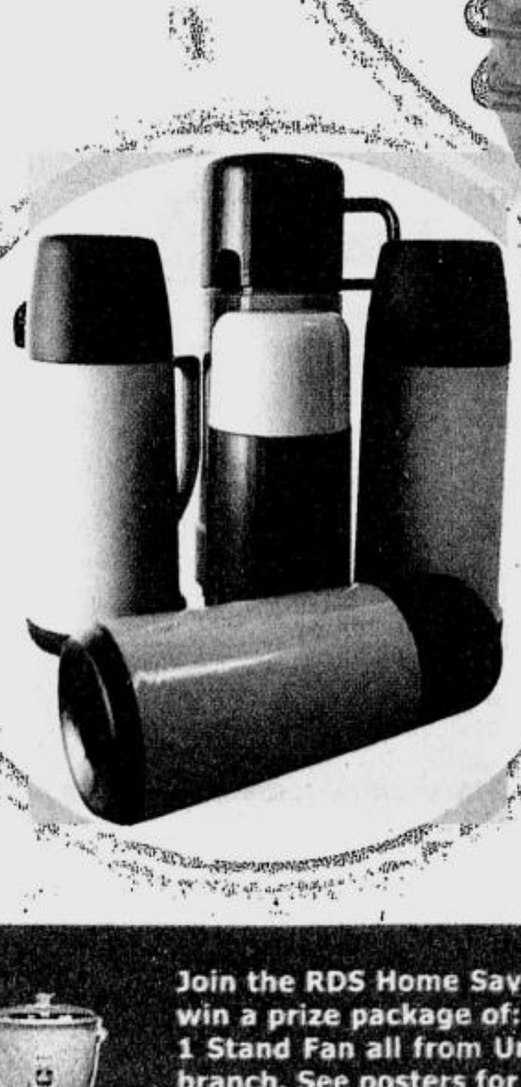

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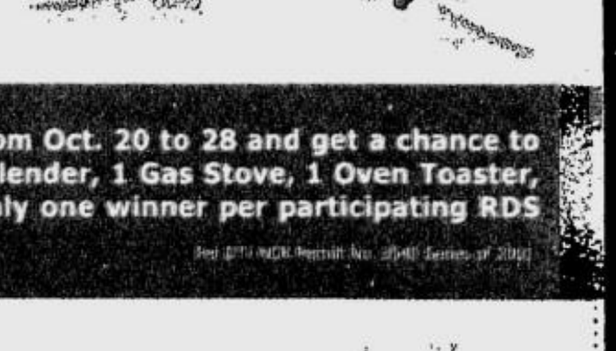

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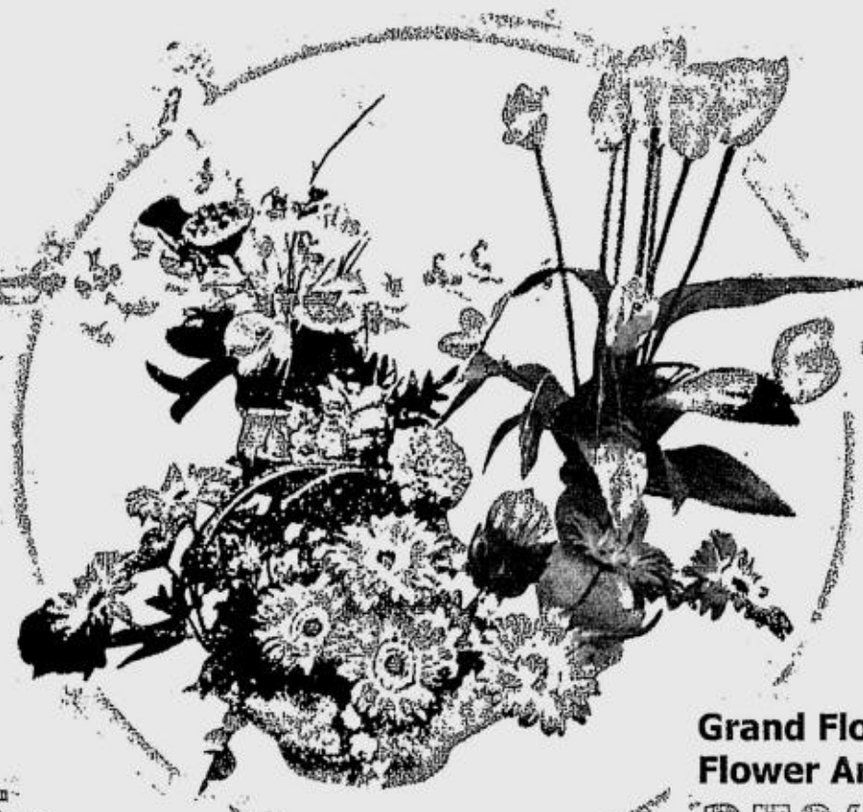
ME ers

19-28, 2001

Robinsons Department Store's (RDS) "Home Savers" offers a wide selection of home items—from bed furnishings to cookware and Philippine crafts—at 25% to 50% discounts at its participating branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches Robinsons, Metro East, Metropolis Star Alabang, Imus, Bacolod, Cebu, Robinsons Place Iloilo and Starmall Shaw. More reasonably-priced choices are available under the Special Buys, Gifts with Purchase and Buy One Take One promotions.

As an added treat for shoppers, RDS raffles off a Union home appliance package (that includes a blender, over toaster, electric fan, rice cooker and gas stove). Every P300 purchase (single or accumulated) in the Houseware, Home Furnishings, Gifts & Home Décor, and Furniture departments at any of the participating RDS branches entitles a customer to one raffle coupon. Only a maximum of five coupons may be claimed for purchases worth P1,500 or more. One winner per participating RDS branch will be chosen during the grand raffle draw that will be held on Nov. 12, 2001. Deadline for dropping of entries is on Oct. 28, 2001.



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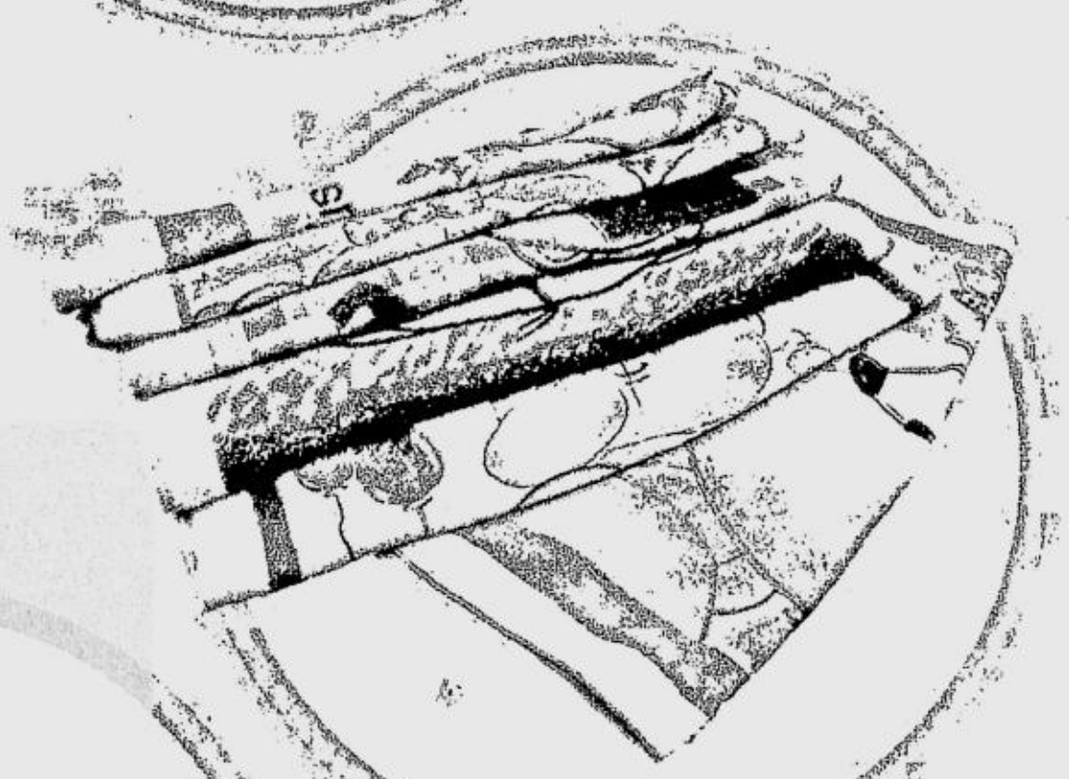

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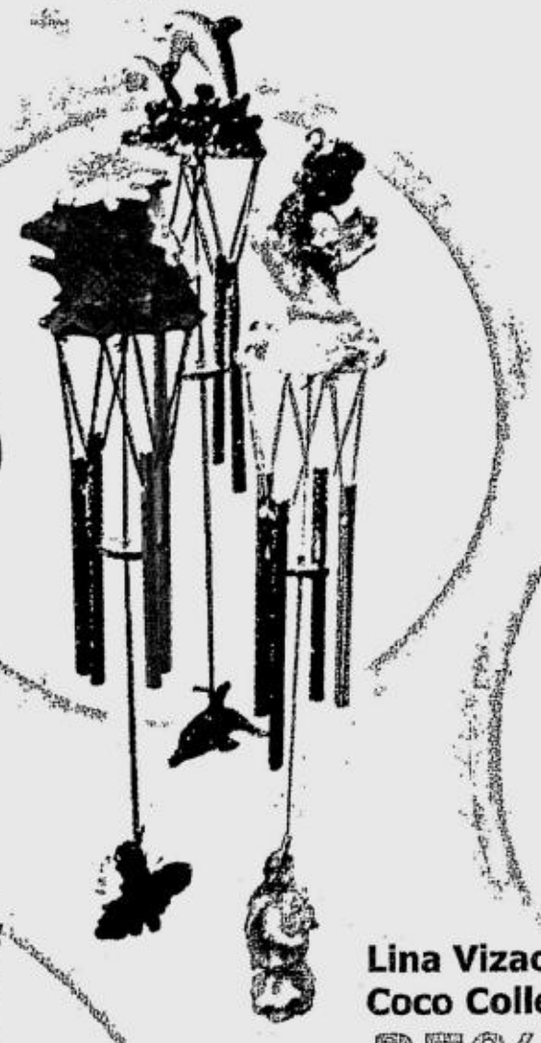

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Reese Witherspoon goes 'Blonde' to reach a wider audience

WITHERSPOON. Has acted in movies since age 14.

BY DAVID GERMAIN

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California—Reese Witherspoon has endless praise for roles as a ruthless overachiever in "Election," a vamp-turned-bookworm in "Pleasantville" and as a semi-psychotic Red Riding Hood in the cult hit "Freeway."

Now, Witherspoon wants an audience.

She describes her latest, "Legally Blonde," as a step toward establishing herself as a commercially viable lead actress.

Though the 25-year-old Witherspoon has acted in movies since age 14, the financial reality of filmmaking is relatively new territory for her.

Commercial prospects

"I think at the time I made 'Election,' I didn't even know what commercial prospects were," Witherspoon said in an interview over coffee on a terrace overlooking Sunset Boulevard. "I just read the script and thought, oh, that's fun.

"It wasn't something that I was aware of until probably about two years ago that somehow it mattered if your movies made money.

"So I tried to put myself into a different mind frame when I decided to do this film. I wanted to reach more people."

She may not have a hit on her resume. But standout performances in smaller films have earned Witherspoon a reputation as an actress whose spunk and charm can make audiences love characters who are essentially dislikable—even scary.

Nemesis

Tracy Flick in "Election" malevolently campaigns for student government and becomes the nemesis of a befuddled teacher (Matthew Broderick) yet still evokes empathy for her little-girl instability.

Vanessa Lutz in "Freeway" is a sewer-mouthed, illiterate anti-hero who manages to endear herself to viewers as she dispenses a merciless comeuppance to her own Big Bad Wolf (Kiefer Sutherland).

With Elle Woods of "Legally Blonde," Witherspoon knew she had another character audiences might have trouble connecting with.

Elle has it all: good looks, a well-to-do family, honors grades, power and respect among her sorority sisters. Then Elle's boyfriend dumps her because she's too blond, saying his political ambitions require him to marry a Jackie, not a Marilyn.

To win him back, Elle follows him to Harvard Law School, where her beach looks, pink color schemes and pampered Chihuahua get her branded as a Barbie doll who's not taken seriously.

"When we got the script, I said OK, here's the situation. This character is essentially unlikable," Witherspoon said. "She has lots of money. She's got all these designer clothes. She has all these friends, she's popular. Why are we going to love this girl?"

Witherspoon's solution: Play the character as someone so smart, capable and upbeat that she's impossible to dislike, a woman whose guiding principle is look good, feel good, and project that onto others.

In the season's overload of action blockbusters, "Legally Blonde" has solid buzz as a sleeper hit that could propel Witherspoon to box-office stardom.

Significant step

"It's certainly Reese's turn," said "Legally Blonde" director Robert Luketic. "I can just sort of tell it's changing for her.

"This is one that's going to be a significant step in her career. One that shows her versatility, that she is the real thing.

"America is going to love her. She's our next Julia Roberts."

The daughter of a doctor and a nursing professor, Witherspoon began acting lessons at age 7 in Tennessee and broke into films with an acclaimed performance in the 1991 teen melodrama "The Man in the Moon."

Two years later, Witherspoon starred in "A Far Off Place." Her other credits include "Jack the Bear," "Fear," "Twilight" and "Best Laid Plans." Last year, she appeared in "American Psycho" and "Little Nicky," the first film Witherspoon shot since taking time off after the birth of her baby daughter with husband Ryan Phillippe in 1999.

It was Witherspoon's in-everybody's-face role in "Freeway" in 1996 that really caught Hollywood's attention. And though she already had half a dozen movies behind her at that point, it wasn't until "Freeway" that Witherspoon truly felt she had found her calling.

Surgeon

Before that, Witherspoon seriously considered following her parents into medicine and studying to be a surgeon.

Witherspoon is looking for another project for her and her husband, with whom she co-starred in "Cruel Intentions," a teen variation of "Dangerous Liaisons."

"Certainly, now that we have a child, it would make our lives a lot easier to be on the same set at the same time," Witherspoon said. "We could just bring the baby and keep her there."

The family was able to stick together in London this year when Phillippe was there shooting Robert Altman's "Gosford Park" and Witherspoon went into production on Oliver Parker's "The Importance of Being Earnest" immediately after.

While Witherspoon viewed "Earnest" as a good move to get beyond teen and college roles, she wound up playing an 18-year-old—the love interest of Rupert Everett in Oscar Wilde's comedy of mistaken identities.

"I didn't know that till I got there," Witherspoon said. "I'm playing 18, and how old is Rupert?" (42).

"But you know? If someone will still hire me as 18, God bless 'em." *AP*

Rica Peralejo returns to the bold genre in 'Dos Ekis'

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

AFTER baring not her intimate parts but her fangs in "Banyo Queen," Rica Peralejo returns to the bold genre in "Dos Ekis" with Mark Anthony Fernandez as her love interest. The movie, according to director Erik Matti, is a follow-up to "Ekis," the second film in what he hopes will be a trilogy on the grimy side of Manila from the point of view of a *probinsyano* like him.

Erik treated the movie like a documentary and attempted to make each scene as realistic as possible, showing the seamy side of the decaying city. Again, it's about choices made by individuals, and the consequences arising from such choices.

Battered housewife

In "Ekis," Sunshine Cruz was a battered housewife who got involved with a bank robber played by Albert Martinez. When she decided to strike back against her husband and start a new life with Albert, the two had to suffer the repercussions of their decision.

In "Dos Ekis," Rica plays a jaded prostitute who works in a third-rate club. Unlike 'Balahibong Pusa," where she basically retained her playful nature, Rica is a toughie in this movie, one whose heart has been deadened by all the misery around her.

PERALEJO. Had to learn how to bump and grind.

She decides to steal from her pimp because she feels she has been unjustly treated. That decision has tragic results because she has to face the wrath not only of her pimp but also of a deadly crime lord played by director Celso Ad. Castillo.

Mark is a naive boy who falls in love with Rica and grows up overnight as he tries to protect his loved one from her enemies. Rica and Mark realize too late that their decisions will result in their downfall.

Adult roles

For Rica, deciding to do adult roles has had positive results. After the initial shock of seeing her in sexually-explicit scenes in "Balahibong Pusa," audiences have learned to accept her new image as a grown-up.

In "Dos Ekis," Rica has an erotic dance that should get temperatures rising in moviehouses again. TV viewers are already getting glimpses of the dance, which has been severely edited to fit a general audience. She does her striptease while taking a shower, reminiscent of Jennifer Beal's routine in "Flashdance."

Unlike bedroom scenes, a striptease requires choreography so Rica had to learn how to bump and grind, an experience she thoroughly enjoyed. It took her a while to perfect her moves but when she got going, she looked like she could compete with Gypsy Rose Lee.

Shooting "Dos Ekis" was exhausting, both physically and emotionally, says Rica. In her last movie, "Banyo Queen," Rica was able to relax because it was a comedy. The movie also widened her audience because it was rated PG-13. In her latest project, the actress felt spent at the end of every shooting day. "*Tapos na ang* shooting, *masungit pa rin ako.* It was so hard to snap out of it. *Talagang piniga ako ng husto ni Direk*," she sighs.

US trip

That's why she's looking forward to her trip to the US, where she is scheduled to perform in several shows. Although the atmosphere abroad is a bit tense, Rica feels that it will be an opportunity to recharge her batteries. Her original schedule was cut short, however, because she is scheduled to shoot for Nick Joaquin's "Tatarin," a possible entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Rica looks forward to more productive years in show business. She says she entered this new phase in her career with her eyes wide open. She has no regrets, so far. She continues to project a positive image to her colleagues in the business. She says, "It pays to be work hard in show biz, and to be good to everyone. *Dapat wala kang kagalit sa trabahong ito, kung puede lang.*"

The reigning Regina King

PLAYING externally tough characters, but with a soft core, is what Regina King does so well, be it in Cameron Crowe's "Jerry Maguire," Tony Scott's "Enemy of the State," and Forest Whittaker's "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and John Singleton's "Higher Learning."

New film

In her new film "Down To Earth," King was signed to play Sontee—a determined, skeptical love interest of Lance (played by Chris Rock).

"It's rare you find a script able to break through all the boundaries people put on relationships as far as age, class and color are concerned," King explains. But all that is out the door here. In this film, love really does conquer all."

Rock appreciates the qualities of his female lead. "Regina makes this story believable. It's such a joy to see her work every day because she's so grounded, and emotionally sound and honest. She really is her character."

King, who wowed audiences as Cuba Gooding Jr.'s wife Marcee Tidwell in Comer Crowe's award-nominated feature "Jerry Maguire," was honored with an NAACP nomination for Best Actress for her role opposite Will Smith in Tony Scott's action thriller "Enemy of the State."

Aside from "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and "Higher Learning," she garnered critical acclaim for her other film credits which include "Love and Action," "Mighty Joe Young," "Boyz N the Hood," "Poetic Justice" and "A Thin Line Between Love and Hate."

KING. Emotionally honest.

A native of Los Angeles, King initially made a name for herself on television as Marla Gibbs' perennially petulant daughter in the popular series "227." Her other television credits include guest appearances on "New York Undercover," "Living Single," and "Northern Exposure."

She recently starred opposite Marlee Matlin in Lifetime Television's "Where The Truth Lies," and was most recently seen in HBO's "If These Walls Could Talk 2," directed by Anne Heche.

Serene autumn films? Don't you believe it!

(From page C8)

time metal band before being hired by Judas Priest after Rod Halford left the group in the early 1990s.

Fictional account

The director and writer, however, point out that the movie is a fictional account of what it's like to go on tour with a major metal band and the lessons to be learned from doing so.

That's to say, lessons learned from the usual rock-n-roll stuff in the R-rated film: sex and drugs, alcohol and idol worship.

In another vein, Hollywood's notorious for copying good ideas and remaking them with a new spin, and PG-13-rated "The Musketeer" unabashedly follows that approach.

Promotional material for the film says it "weds the classic swordsplay and chivalry" of . . . 'The Three Musketeers' with the gravity-defying dazzle of Hong Kong action choreography."

In other words, "Musketeers" meets "Crouching Tiger."

Swaggering swordsman

Relative unknown Justin Chambers portrays the swaggering swordsman D'Artagnan who travels to 17th century Paris to join up with the king's elite guard—the Royal Musketeers.

Once there, he finds treachery in the form of Cardinal Richelieu (Stephen Rea) and his henchman Febre (Tim Roth), love in the form of chambermaid Francesca (Mena Suvari) and loyalty from the musketeers as they band together to save the crown.

One for all and all for one! Now, that's a new theme!

Here's another one under the heading, "Hollywood Fresh." Guy and girl are happily in love until girl catches guy stepping out, mistakenly, with girl No. 2. The chance encounter sets into motion a series of events in which guy and girl stake out the rules of love in the age-old battle of the sexes.

Marketing hook

That is the basic story in "Two Can Play That Game" with Vivica A. Fox as the girl and Morris Chestnut as the guy.

The marketing hook is that the story is told from a female point-of-view. But writer/director Mark Brown made much the same film in "How to be a Player" from a male perspective, wrote critic Robert Koehler of industry paper "Daily Variety."

In his review, Koehler said the new incarnation has "a bit more style and energy . . . Underneath, though, it is the same unfunny game all over again."

That leaves moviegoers with "Soul Survivors," from the producer team of Neal Moritz and Stokely Chaffin who brought audiences the horror flicks, "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer."

Car accident

The horror movie stars newcomer Melissa Sagemiller as a college freshman, Cassie, who is injured in a car accident that takes the life of her boyfriend Sean (Casey Affleck).

Following the crash, Matt (Wes Bentley), Annabel (Eliza Dushku) and Annabel's friend Raven (Angela Featherstone) steer Cassie into a life that celebrates the netherworld. It's up to ghostly visits from soulmate Sean to help guide Cassie back from the darkside.

Sounds a little like 1999's "The Sixth Sense" or even last year's "Stir of Echoes," and producer Chaffin will admit it, but he adds that because of its young stars, "there's nothing really like it." He is, after all, the producer. *Reuters*

Spiritual marriage

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

MY spiritual teacher once gave a talk on spiritual marriage and relationships, and I would like to share with you the main points that he made during his lecture:

Problems

First of all, if the reason two people are getting into marriage is spiritual—to increase their attraction to the Supreme Lord and come closer to Him—then the marriage will be a success. But if the purpose is some fantasy of mind, then there will be problems.

For example, if one's mind says, "This is your hero, your beloved, your savior!" then God is left out of the picture. If one makes one's partner the center of the relationship, then there will be great expectations and inevitable disappointments.

In the beginning of the marriage, it is easy to focus on positive qualities, no matter how minute they are, and be blind to faults and weaknesses of character. The mind can even fool us into thinking that our spouse is perfect.

But the attraction will not last because such feelings and illusory fantasies are not eternal. They are like dreams that overwhelm us for the moment but have no real substance or lasting power. So, what will be left is the reality and actual core of your spiritual existence.

> Real happiness comes from two people focusing on their devotion to the Supreme Father

People should look not for the most physically attractive partner but the most spiritually mature friend. We have to see the person as he is—the spirit-soul inside that temporary physical body. And to be able to see spiritually, we have to literally close our eyes.

Physical attributes

We have to see beyond the looks, the physical attributes, the economic status, the educational background, the material decorations and labels that cover the living entity.

A very good example is the relationship of Mary and Joseph. Research findings state that, when Mary gave birth to Jesus, she was about 13 years old, while Joseph was about 50 years old. If this relationship was exposed today, society would raise hell about such an arrangement. In America, Joseph may find himself jailed for getting involved with Mary.

But their relationship was exemplary and successful. First of all, the qualities Mary was looking for in a husband are not what girls today look for in men. And because they were both not materialistic, they had the wonderful opportunity to raise Jesus Christ as their son and experienced great joy in doing so.

Real happiness comes from two people relating with each other on a spiritual level and focusing on their service and devotion to the Supreme Father. This is a very deep happiness and it is service and devotion to the Supreme Father. It is lasting because it is spiritual in nature and connected with the reservoir of all true happiness—the Original Being.

Responsibility

The husband is tasked with the responsibility of taking care of his wife and children both materially and spiritually. To take responsibility for someone's spiritual welfare means being focused on one's spiritual pursuit and service to God.

The husband must have the spiritual training and foundation to be able to lead his family to a life of true love, peace and happiness. He must be able to provide the conducive spiritual environment for family members to grow in love and service to the Lord.

To have a wife and kids is like taking disciples and people shouldn't marry unless they know the real purpose of life and are ready to take responsibility for the spiritual well-being of their dependents. The time to realize this heavy responsibility is not after you have kids but before you even get into marriage.

In conclusion, when we decide on relationships in our life, let us sharpen our spiritual vision and close our materialistic eyes to prevent them from limiting us to great illusions and fantasies.

Heaven can wait for comedian Chris Rock

CHRIS Rock has emerged as one of America's most important comedic voices. A Brooklyn, New York native and veteran stand-up comic for more than 12 years, Rock's considerable talents are on ample display in the new film "Down To Earth."

Amateur comedian

Based on the film "Heaven Can Wait" with screenplay by Elaine May and Warren Beatty from a play by Harry Segall, "Down To Earth" is about amateur comedian Lance Barton (Rock) who finds himself at Heaven's door, convinced there has been a mistake.

Miraculously, he is right. Since returning to his own body is not an option, a heavenly agent places him into the corpse of a rich Manhattan mogul who has just been bumped off by his wife—until a more suitable replacement can be found.

Ironically, it is as this strange new person that Lance ultimately discovers his true self, falls in love and improves his comedy act in the process.

Bringing such a heavenly story to the screen attracted Chris Rock to his first starring role. After a casual lunch meeting with Warren Beatty, the idea of a contemporary, crossed-race version of Beatty's "Heaven Can Wait" stuck in Rock's mind.

"This just seemed like a movie I could do," the versatile comedian says. "It seemed absolutely perfect."

Different race

Approaching humor from a racial viewpoint is something at which Rock excels, affirmed by his thousands of concertgoers and millions of television viewers. "In some ways the scenario works better if the person comes back in a different race," he said. "Putting a black man in the role just ups the ante at every level."

About his character. Rock continues: "Lance Barton is a real lowly guy. He can't get a woman, can't get laughs, can't get anything. He's a poor, bike-riding messenger in Harlem. And just a horrible comic.

"So, when he takes over the body of Wellington, this rich guy with his boardroom and his Park Avenue penthouse with all these elaborate gadgets, he's as far out of his element as he could possibly be. The potential was endless."

ROCK stars as Lance Barton in "Down to Earth."

Recruited to bring to the screen the timeless story was a unique and lucky directing choice. Chris and Paul Weitz chose the film from a bevy of offers following their comedy smash "American Pie."

More of a classic romantic comedy than their previous hit (and without baked goods), the Weitz brothers were anxious to put a contemporary spin on the 1979 film.

Approaching humor from a racial viewpoint is something at which Rock excels

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Brendan Fraser makes stage debut in London

FRASER. Missing element.

BY MATT WOLF

LONDON—It is not easy being Brick, the one-time jock of ambivalent sexuality whom Brendan Fraser plays—uneasily—in the new London stage revival of Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Williams' men are famously tricky. Some, like the feral Stanley Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire," seem to exist forever in the shadow of one famous interpreter—in that case, Marlon Brando.

Larger-than-life females

Others look pallid next to the rampaging larger-than-life females with whom they share the stage or screen. (Just think of Chance Wayne, the callow boy toy of "Sweet Bird of Youth.")

The challenge in playing Brick is that Williams' catalyst on this occasion is also an explosive drama's most passive character. During the first of the three acts, you're mostly drawn to Brick's wife, Margaret, otherwise known as Maggie "The Cat," a sultry Southerner whose childless status is tantamount—in her eyes, anyway—to a sort of curse.

Stalking the stage in barely contained heat like the feline of the title, Maggie dominates a long play's first hour. And in Act 2, Brick's fearsome father, Big Daddy, takes command.

Withheld energy

As a result, Brick is best off possessing a withheld energy—a sense that what isn't being said is more voluble than what Brick chooses to reveal. However, that quality eludes Fraser, the ingratiating star of the two "Mummy" films here making his British stage debut.

Fleshier than he appeared in his underrated performance opposite Ian McKellen in "Gods and Monsters," Fraser has the look of a star athlete beginning to go to seed. What's more, he deftly navigates the Lyric Theatre stage wielding a crutch that doubles, at moments of anger, as a weapon. He also hurls more expletives than would ever have peppered the original text 46 years ago.

Fierce conflict

The missing element is the sense of a spirit eroding from within that has pushed Brick toward the bottle and into fierce conflict with both his father and his wife.

While Big Daddy is dying from a cancer that his family cannot acknowledge, Williams shows how Brick's self-deceptions are in their own way cancerous: He will not face the truth of his affection for his dead friend, Skipper, preferring instead the "click" that comes from liquor.

Miscast actors

Anthony Page's production could use more of a click of its own, with three of its four principals—fine actors all, in other circumstances—miscast. As Maggie, rising film star Frances O'Connor ("Mansfield Park," "A.I.") has the right feverishness for a woman grown cruel and taunting in her desperation.

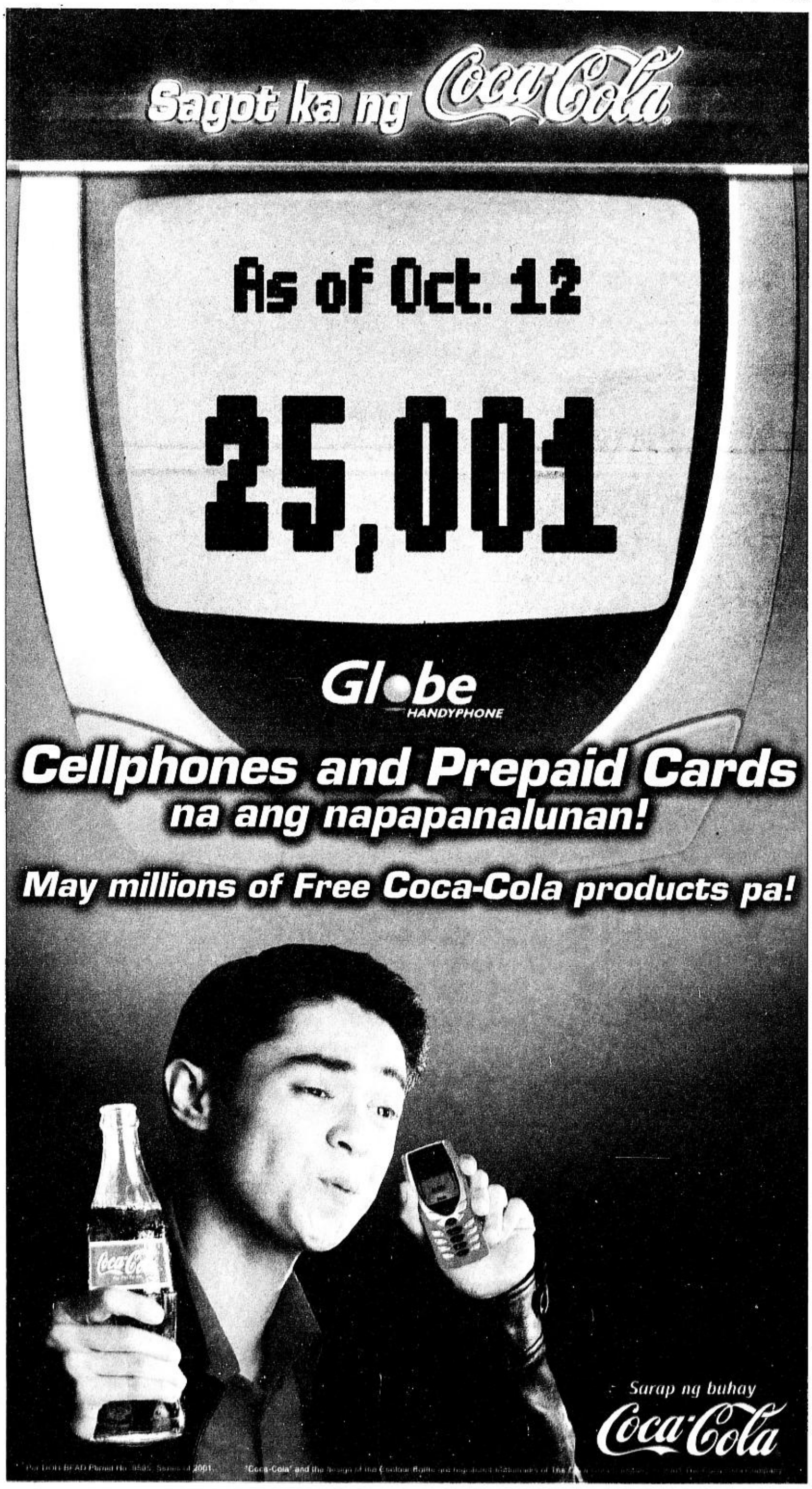
But she is not nearly ripe enough to play Williams' most sexually avaricious heroine, a woman of thwarted desires surrounded by her in-laws' hyper-fertility. (Brick's brother Gooper and Gooper's wife Mae have five "no-neck monsters" for children and a sixth on the way.)

Trail of lies

Playing Big Mama, whose 40-year marriage to Big Daddy has left its own trail of lies, the quintessentially English Gemma Jones simply seems adrift in Williams' Southern Gothic hothouse. A cartoonish costume does not help her.

With Fraser left for the most part staring into space, the occasional facial tic his only emotional register, Ned Beatty's momentous Big Daddy turns a supporting role into the evening's star turn. Physically perfect for the role, the one-time star of "Deliverance" cuts a rotund, large-voiced presence who conveys Big Daddy's off-color humor at the same time that he rattles the audience with the character's revulsion.

"All liars, all lying dying liars," he bellows at the close of Act 2, stirring Big Daddy's face-off with death into blazing theatrical life. *AP*



BRITTANY Murphy plays a mental patient with a secret that Michael Douglas' character has to unravel.

'DON'T SAY A WORD'

Twisted, terrifying suspense-thriller

WHAT do a missing daughter, a murder, a mental patient and Michael Douglas have in common? They all play a part in the twisted, terrifying plot of Twentieth Century Fox's new suspense-thriller "Don't Say A Word," based on the best-selling novel by Andrew Klavan.

Family man

Directed by Gary Fleder ("Kiss the Girls"), "Don't Say A Word" revolves around Dr. Nathan Conrad (Douglas), a prominent New York City psychiatrist and family man who is asked to consult on a strange case involving a young mental patient. The troubled Elisabeth Burrows ("Girl, Interrupted's" Brittany Murphy) has a history of violence and antisocial behavior—and could also be Conrad's last hope for happiness. For Elisabeth has a terrible secret—and a set of mysterious numbers—locked in her head. And when Conrad's own daughter gets kidnapped, it becomes apparent that whatever Elisabeth knows or doesn't know is the key to unraveling the crime and finding the perpetrators behind it. But will Conrad's skills prove strong enough to unlock Elisabeth's painful past and thus save his family's future?

Character change

As Conrad races from New York's scariest graveyards to its most infamous psychiatric wards in his quest to save his family, the doctor also undergoes a character change. "Nathan never had to get his hands dirty," explains screenwriter Patrick Smith Kelly. "By the end, he's become like a primal man, determined to get his daughter back at all costs. He's thinking he'd be better off dead than letting his child be killed."

"Nathan Conrad is someone who appears to have everything," notes Douglas, "Suddenly, what he loves most is taken away from him—he struggles against a ticking clock to get (his daughter) back . . .Andrew Klavan's book was a thrill ride, full of great characters and non-stop suspense. The film will give audiences that same kind of roller-coaster ride."

Serene autumn films? Don't you believe it!

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE

LOS ANGELES—For moviegoers, the fall season is supposed to be when Hollywood ushers more dramas into theaters and fewer of the high-octane action flicks of summer.

But past patterns don't always hold true, especially in Hollywood.

For the first week of the new season, the studios rocked theaters with four debuts led by the high-profile "Rock Star," swashbuckling "The Musketeer," frightening "Soul Survivors" and flirtatious "Two Can Play at That Game."

Sounds an awful lot like summer.

"Rock Star" centers on young Chris Cole (Mark Wahlberg), the front man for a local metal band that plays cover tunes of a major touring act, Steel Dragon. When Cole is plucked from obscurity to sing for Steel Dragon, it seems to be the answer to his dreams, but is really the start to a host of problems.

"Be careful what you wish for" is the basic message, said Jennifer Aniston, who plays Cole's girlfriend Emily. She called the movie: "a fun, rock-n-roll, popcorn-type movie."

The story for "Rock Star" was cooked up after its producers read about the real-life experience of Tim "The Ripper" Owens, singer in a small-

SERENE/ p. C6

ANISTON. "Be careful what you wish for."

WAHLBERG is the "Rock Star."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2001

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Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor ■ EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Peach Blush

2 cups sliced peaches, drained
1 tbsp. unflavored gelatin
1/2 cup sugar
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dash of salt
1 cup NESTLÉ CREAM

Purée peaches. Pour into saucepan and stir in gelatin. Let stand for about 5 min. to soften. Add sugar and simmer for about 10 min. Cool then freeze. When half-frozen, stir in flavoring, salt and NESTLÉ CREAM. Freeze. Serve on slices of fresh fruit topped with chilled NESTLÉ CREAM.

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Robert Redford waves the flag for 'Last Castle'

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE

REDFORD. Strange times.

LOS ANGELES—There is Robert Redford the actor, and Robert Redford the director and producer. Then there's Bob Redford the environmentalist and Bob Redford the political critic. But Redford, a flag-waving patriot?

These are, indeed, strange times.

Revolt

A little over a month after the Sept. 11 attacks, Redford plays an heroic US Army general who leads military prisoners in a revolt against a power-mad warden in "The Last Castle."

Some old-fashioned flag-waving at movie theaters will likely please US audiences, now, and in the months to come as Hollywood grapples with exactly how to entertain Americans following the tragic attacks. But some film fans may think it odd for Redford to be the first to run Old Glory up the pole.

In "Last Castle" he plays General Irwin, a West Point graduate and war hero whose love of country and sense of duty remain true despite having being court-martialed.

"I found it very intriguing to play that kind of character, which is fairly remote from my life experience, being someone who has at various times been critical of our political system, either off-screen or on-screen," Redford told Reuters.

Cynicism

"Prior to Sept. 11, there was a high degree of cynicism, especially in film criticism. There was a tendency to pooh-pooh anything that worked for the American flag or patriotism."

General Irwin is not the kind of role Redford fans have come to love. He's no Bob Woodward, whose reporting for the Washington Post helped bring down the Nixon White House. Redford portrayed Woodward in 1976's "All The President's Men."

He's no dashing Sundance Kid or dreamy Jay Gatsby. Irwin is a stone-faced Army general with a God-given talent to lead and a desire to do just that.

"Some people believe the best way to lead is by fear," said Redford. "Others believe you have to work to the best of men to get the best performance and best results."

Irwin is the latter.

He arrives at a fortress that houses GIs who have been convicted of crimes. Irwin, a Vietnam War prisoner and battle warrior, has been court-martialed, stripped of his rank and jailed after disobeying an order that led to eight deaths.

Still, his pre-conviction exploits made him a true American hero, and prison warden Col. Winter (James Gandolfini) worships the ground Irwin walks on. No sooner do the two meet, however, than they find themselves completely at odds.

ROBERT/p. D7

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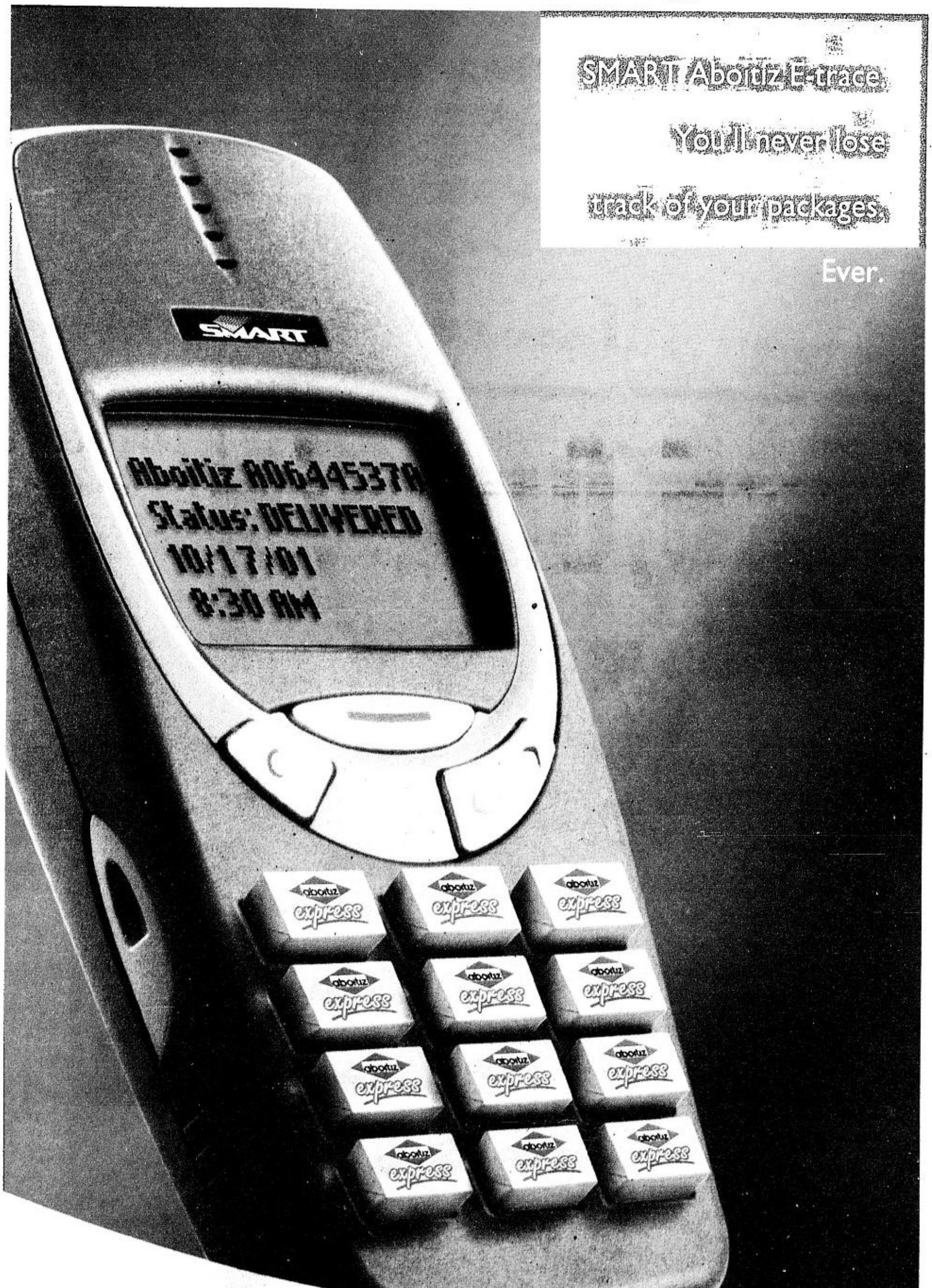

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Fukuoka archive shows the way to effective film preservation

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

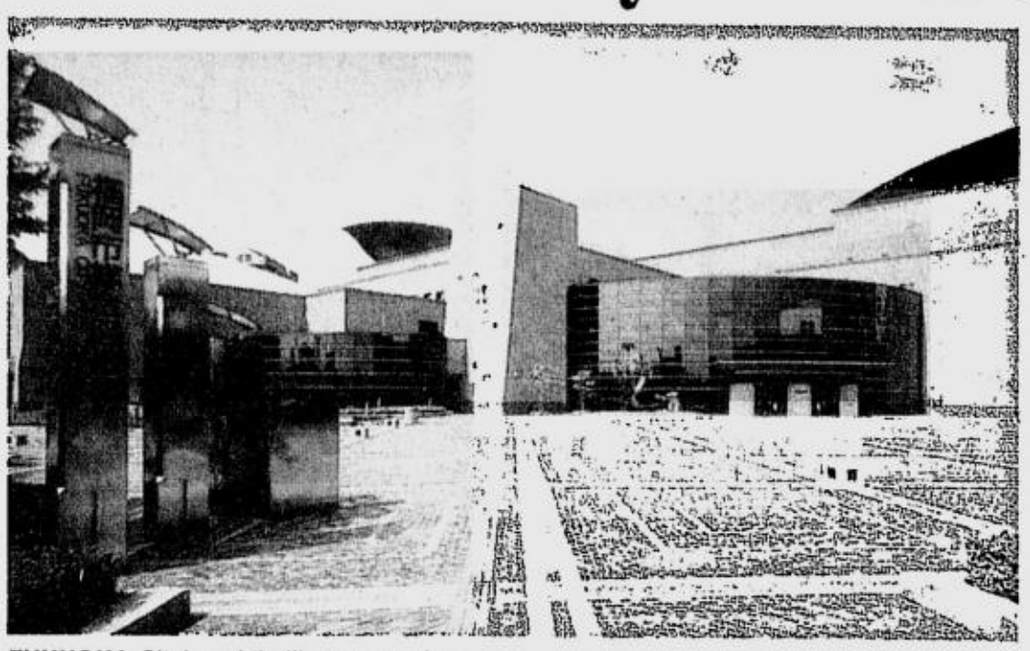
ONE of the continuing tragedies on the local movie scene is the physical deterioration of many of our film classics, due to our blithe lack of understanding and concern, and not enough money to spend for film preservation and archiving.

Ravages of time

As a result, all except two or three of the Filipino film industry's output in the '30s can no longer be viewed by film buffs or students. There are more films extant from the '40s , '50s and '60s, but some exceptional productions from those decades have also fallen victims to the ravages of time and lack of foresight.

Even more shockingly, some of the best films made by Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal have gone the way of all crumbling celluloid. Once in a long while, an effort is made to restore an old masterpiece, but literally hundreds of fine movies aren't saved.

This is a tragedy because it deprives us of our cinematic patrimony, and limits new generations of viewers pretty much to contemporary fare, which in general is less outstanding than the output of film decades past.



FUKUOKA City's public library complex.

THE COMPLEX'S main movie theater.

High standards

How can our new filmmakers set high standards for themselves if they haven't viewed the best Filipino films ever made? It's imperative that we preserve our filmic masterpieces to set current filmmaking within the context of excellence.

That's why, on our occasional movie sorties abroad, we make it a point to visit film archives, to learn how film preservation, restoration and archiving are professionally done in different countries. This, in the hope that we can disseminate the information, so some concerned individuals and organizations in the Philippines can be motivated to help preserve our filmic patrimony for future generations to learn from and be challenged by.

Well-funded

On our recent trip with Marilou Diaz-Abaya to Fukuoka City in Japan, we spent half a day at the Fukuoka Film Archive at the city's public library complex. We learned a lot from our visit because Fukuoka's film archive is a well-funded and well-though-out enterprise, with much more than just its film vaults to define the extent of its existence.

The library's film archive section acquires films and film-related materials of exceptional quality from Japan and other countries for the purpose of long-term preservation and exhibition.

True to its goal of becoming an Asian film center, the archive collects data on film with an emphasis on Asia. It maintains close ties with film institutions and individuals in the region so it can effectively serve as a media center for the promotion of Asian film culture.

THE ARCHIVE'S film vaults.

Asian films

Since 1993, the archive has acquired Asian films and Japanese documentaries, animation and experimental films. It has a movie hall where a different film is shown everyday from Wednesday to Sunday.

There's a mini-theater that screens a daily program of music from CDs, records, 16 mm and High Definition TV productions. And a video research room provides facilities for the editing of VHS and 8 mm videotapes and films.

In addition, a video library has a number of booths in which people can "order" a video, LD, CD or cassette tape book of their choice. This is very personalized service that entails the use of headsets for sound while viewing or listening to the tapes, so other people in the library aren't disturbed.

With these and other services, the Fukuoka film archive serves the needs of the city's film buffs, who have become much more knowledgeable about Asian movies in only a few years' time.

IN video library booths like this, individual film buffs can view tape copies of movies of their choice.

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11:00
12:00 Lunch & contract signing
FASTPhone - reorder checkbook
2:00 Back to main office
3:00 Review proposals for joint venture
4:00 Staff Conference
Go to gym
Pay utility bills with FASTPhone
6:00
7:00 Special family dinner

9 Tuesday

7:00
8:00 Attend hal... conference
9:00
10:00
11:00 Leave for business
12:00
1:00 Check-in ...otel
2:00
3:00 Meet f... gn partn...
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5:00 Dinn...
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7:00 Buy ...ts

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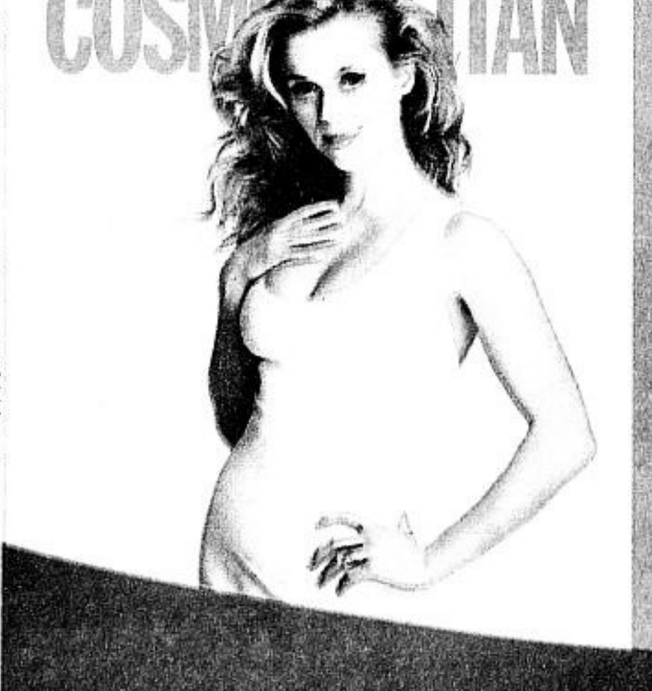

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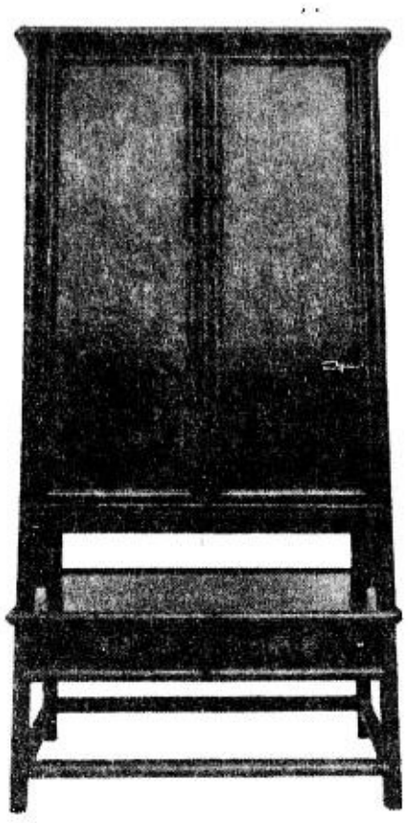

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Backroom artists get together for charity concert on Oct. 24

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THE BACKROOM artists of Boy Abunda will perform in a charity concert for the Golden Acres Home for the Aged on Oct. 24 at 9 p.m. at Chatterbox, Robinsons Galleria. The performers are Dessa, Gladys and the Boxers with K, Calvin Millado, Ara Mina, Rufa Mae Quinto, Ariel Rivera, The Company, Nikki Valdez and Janna Victoria.

Construction

We spoke to some of them during a press conference at Dulcinea on Tomas Morato.

Ara said she had not turned her back on bold roles. It's just that the offers coming her way do not require her to undress. What's keeping her busy these days aside from her tapings for GMA's "Bubble Gang is the construction of her Italian restaurant on Tomas Morato. The resto is being constructed on the 430 sq.m site of the former Casa Marcos and will be called Osteria Italia. Osteria, she said, is another Italian word for restaurant.

There was a plan earlier that it be called Ristorante Ara but the sexy actress decided against it. She wants to separate her show biz career from her new undertaking as a restaurateur. Some writers suggested that she hang some of her nude paintings on the wall. She feels the paintings would not go with the image she wants to project for the dining place.

Italian chef

Ara has hired an Italian chef, 27 years old and single, who used to work for Toscana, one of the high-end Italian restaurants in Metro Manila. Osteria Italia will cater to the high-end market. That makes sense inasmuch as the people who can afford to go out these days belong to the upper bracket. Besides, the place can only hold so many people.

Those who think Ara should have an easy time with City Hall because of her dad's connections are wrong. She says she wants to go through the process in the usual way and not take shortcuts. She expects her resto to open in November.

Calvin, on the other hand, is busy with the ongoing run of "Rent" at the GSIS Theater. When he first accepted the role of Roger three years ago for the first staging of the musical, he was unsure whether he could meet the requirements of the role.

It called for someone who could do rock numbers, something Calvin was not accustomed to. His director, Bobby Garcia, assured him that he could do it. True enough, Calvin shone during performances although there were still some numbers where his voice would crack.

In the current run, Calvin has improved tremendously and has no problems with his voice anymore. More important, he has been able to give his role greater depth. He has grown with the role and is a lot more confident now with his singing and acting

MILLADO. Secure about his sexuality.

Transvestite

He told us that he had just accepted the role of a transvestite in next year's production of "The Rocky Horror Show," a cult favorite in the US, which is also being directed by Bobby Garcia. It took him a while to accept the assignment from his "Rent" director, but eventually he said yes, mainly because he was going to work with Garcia. Besides, he is very secure about his sexuality and feels the role will be good for his career.

We asked him about his love life and he reluctantly said it was OK. The only problem is that his girlfriend is going to be in the US for quite a while so he's not sure how to cope with a long-distance relationship.

Odd couple

Nikki doesn't seem to have a problem with romance. She's very much in love with hunk Troy Montero, and the two seem to be enjoying their relationship. They're not bothered by the rumor mill which has been churning out stories about what an odd couple they are.

Nikki was initially hurt by all the talk but she's gotten over it. What matters is the love they have for each other.

In the benefit concert, Nikki will be able to display her musical talent, something which has been put on hold because of the many acting jobs she has received. Call 435-3808.

Silver lining for our soldiers' tomorrow

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT'S like a track and field event where every lap counts and more than enough staying power to burst through the finish line is a must. When the Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines celebrated its 25th anniversary, it was a week-long affair from Oct. 8 to 15, with more than its share of highlights.

AFP to the core

The theme was AFP to the core: "Kapit-Bisig sa Bagong Simula at Adhikain: Sa Kawal-Pilipino, Magandang Bukas Pagtitibayin."

A sportsfest was held for two days, boosted by the launching of a fitness club, with aerobics and kick boxing exhibitions on the side.

A most worthwhile event was the blood donation drive held in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) last Oct. 11, where 35 bags were gathered from male and female donors.

Some lighthearted moments were provided by the "*tiangge*," or retail market during the day and an employees' party on Oct. 12, where the surprise guest at the bingo-dinner bash was none other than the celebrated witness, Rosebud.

Earlier, four teams competed for the most creative costume award related to the 25th anniversary theme. A three-way tie was declared with Yasmin Sutaria, Amor de la Rosa and Kim Barcelon emerging as winners in the female category, and Joseph Medina in the male category.

RSBS president Cesar M. Jayme Jr.; VP for operations Honorio S. Azcueta and chief finance officer Amelia H.C. Ylagan led the celebrations which culminated in a formal gathering last Oct. 15. Employees were awarded loyalty plaques signed by Gen. Diomedio P. Villanueva, Chief of Staff, AFP."

Awardees

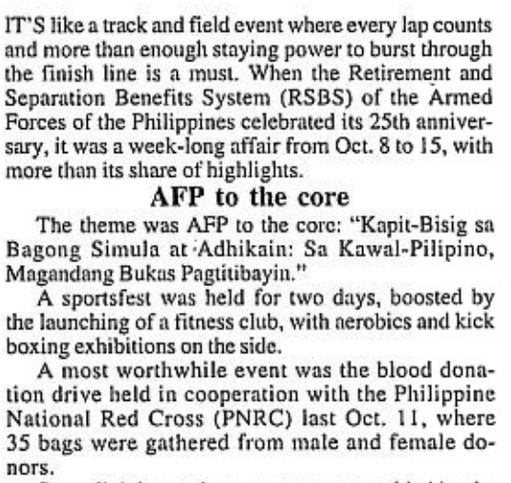
The 25th Year Loyalty Awardees:

Edna Villanueva Birung, an Ibanag from Tugeugarao, Cagayan, has been in the field of controllership since 1976. Lilia Ferrer-Canono joined RSBS in 1976. Elena Obana Cantojos, who has been with RSBS since 1975, supervises and coordinates the safekeeping of RSBS' investment documents.

Lydia Pastor Logro is supervisor of the human resource department. Irene Reyes Aquino, the acting head of the general services department, finished banking and finance, eventually moved to RSBS and even met her husband there.

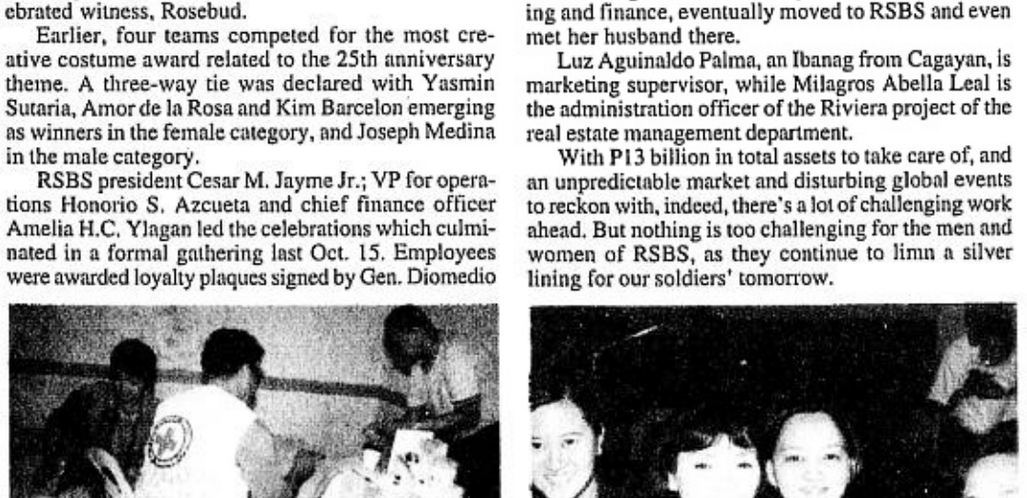
Luz Aguinaldo Palma, an Ibanag from Cagayan, is marketing supervisor, while Milagros Abella Leal is the administration officer of the Riviera project of the real estate management department.

With P13 billion in total assets to take care of, and an unpredictable market and disturbing global events to reckon with, indeed, there's a lot of challenging work ahead. But nothing is too challenging for the men and women of RSBS, as they continue to limn a silver lining for our soldiers' tomorrow.

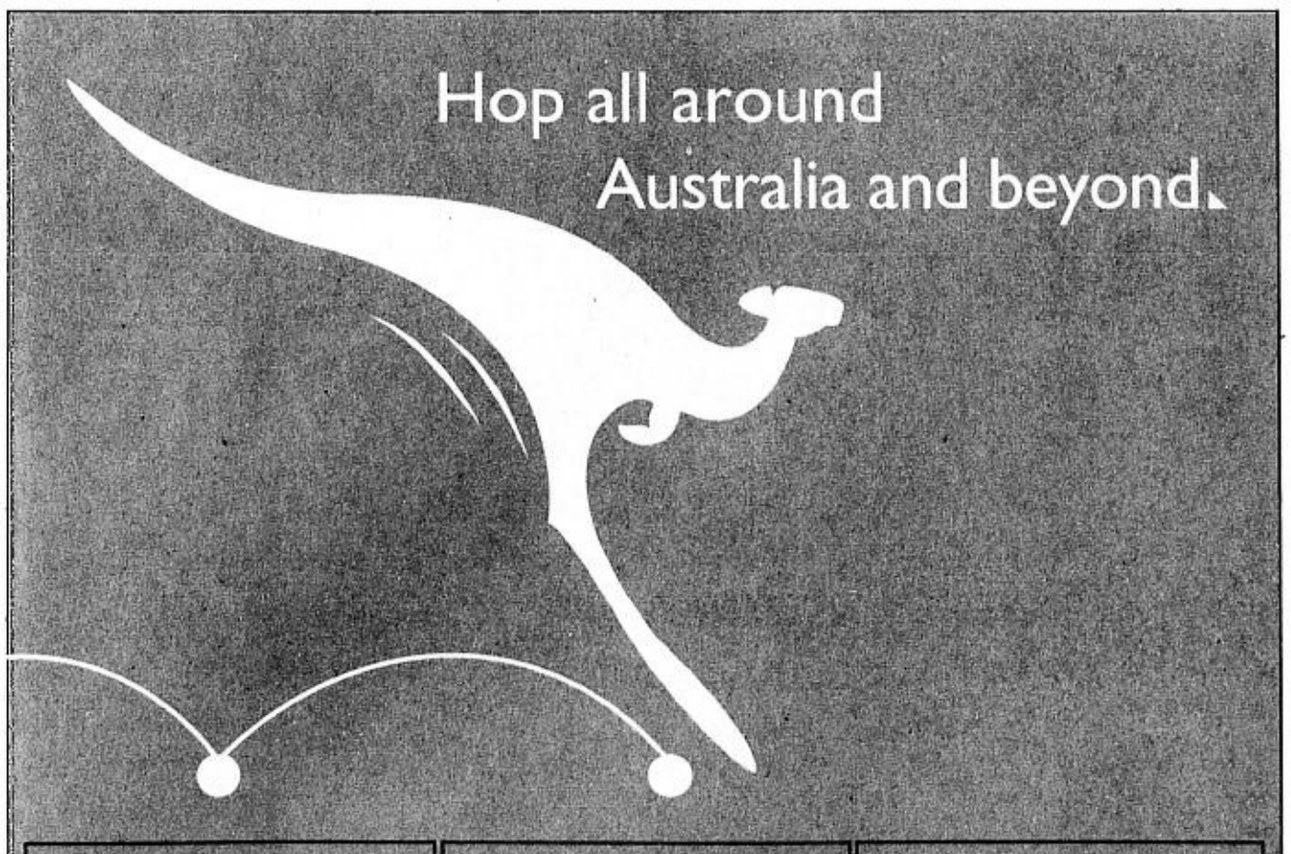


BLOOD donation at AFP-RSBS led by Honorio S. Azcueta.

RSBS' Tammy Bejar, Liza Lorenzana and Jinggay Lejano with surprise guest Rosebud (second from left).



THE 25TH YEAR LOYALTY AWARDEES. From left, standing, Luz Palma, Lilia Canono, Edna Birung, Irene Aquino, Mila Leal, Lydia Logro, (Ellen Cantonjos, not in photo). Seated from left, Francisco Paredes, Cesar M. Jayme Jr., AFP chief Gen. Diomedio P. Villanueva, Amelia H.C. Ylagan and Honorio S. Azcueta.



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QANTAS

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 3284 Series of 2001

Brevity is a virtue in TV sitcoms

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR a long time now, we've complained about the excessive length of most local sitcoms. TV situation comedies abroad are usually only 30 minutes long, but ours stretch to one and a half hours!

The reason given for this is that local sitcoms topbill very expensive stars, so they have to run longer so that the channels can have time to recoup their costs with more commercials.

OK, but the channels don't make their sitcoms' 90-minute running time eventful with more subplots, interesting characters and genuinely funny scripts. All that most of them really do is to stretch out their thin storylines so that they can fill up their 90-minute slots.

As a result, most local sitcoms simply aren't very amusing—or, they're funny only in fits and starts. Unlike the 30-minute sitcoms from abroad, which keep viewers chuckling from beginning to end.

Thank goodness, ABS-CBN has finally come up with two 30-minute sitcoms—"Whattamen" and "Attagirl." We've viewed "Whattamen" twice and find it much more consistently diverting than many other (and longer) sitcoms. This proves that brevity *is* a virtue.

"Whattamen" can afford to be short because it has no big stars' expensive fees to pay. Its leads are Rico Yan, Dominic Ochoa and Marvin Agustin—luminaries in their own right, but much less pricey than other sitcom headliners like Dolphy, Robin Padilla and Bong Revilla.

We hope that other channels can learn from the happy experience of "Whattamen" and also cast non-superstars as leads in their sitcoms, which can therefore be much shorter and more consistently eventful and funny. "Whattamen" airs every Wednesday at 9 p.m., and "Attagirl" every Thursday at 9 p.m.

TV treats

Saturday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, the start of "Tiger Weekend," with programs consisting of the best documentaries on tigers, plus short interviews, interesting facts about tigers and public awareness messages.

The Tiger Foundation is raising funds through sponsorship sales of on-air spots, to support habitat conservation initiatives, anti-poaching campaigns and tiger ecology research in Asia.

In addition, seven wild tigers living in the Way Kambas National Park in Southern Sumatra, Indonesia, will be made available by the Tiger Foundation for an unprecedented symbolic annual adoption. Other tiger programs will be telecast at 7 p.m. on Oct. 21.

At 9 p.m. on Star World, "First Wave" stars Traci Lord as the mysterious and sexy Jordan Radcliffe, who aids Cade Foster (Sebastian Spence) in his bid to save Earth from alien invasion. A bigger challenge looms: to catch and destroy Mabus, the Antichrist predicted by Nostradamus, who has come to lead the alien invasion.

Monday, Oct. 22 on the National Geographic Channel, "Restless Waters" is about a fisherman on Lake Victoria in Africa who has decided to trade dwindling fish catches for the promise of a burgeoning tourist trade.

In another story, the fate of the Ngatimwas family's rice crop in the Kilombero Valley rests on the timing of the coming rains, as well as the power of mudballs and banging pots to discourage hungry birds and hippos.

"WHATTAMEN" star Rico Yan.

The two families persevere through uncertain times, and look to their future with cautious optimism.

At 8 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Red Crabs, Crazy Ants." Each year, the red crabs of Christmas Island leave the safety of the forest and migrate to the ocean to mate and lay eggs. The biggest danger is not the trucks along the way, but the "crazy" yellow ants that eat them alive.

'Chowtime Showtime Caravan'

San Miguel Beer's Oktoberfest "Chowtime Showtime Caravan' hits The Fort tonight. Next, take to the streets on Oct. 26 with parties at the Sunflower Brick Road in Cainta and simultaneous parties on Orosa st. in Malate and Tomas Morato in Quezon City. For more details, check out the website oktoberfest@pinoycentral.com.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Basil Valdez delivers

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

LAST Oct.10, Basil Valdez performed in "Crossover Presents" at the Captain's Bar in Mandarin Oriental hotel. His laid-back presence still commanded attention because of his powerful but soothing voice.

He opened the show with "Beginnings" and kept us enthralled for the entire evening. His version of "Of All the Things," "For Once in My Life," and "Alfie," drew us into a pensive and quiet mood.

His One Hand-One Heart medley ("With These Hands," and "For All We Know") made ladies cuddle up to their partners. His George Canseco medley ("Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan," "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," "Kastilyong Buhangin," "Ngayon at Kailan Man," and "Paano Bang Mangarap") sealed our belief that he is the ultimate balladeer.

VALDEZ. Three standing ovations.

His rendition of Ryan Cayabyab's "Nais Ko" and "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang" showed us that Basil could still hit the high notes without resorting to falsettos (even if he had had a major throat operation a few years ago).

Before singing "Take A Look Inside My Heart," Basil apologized and said, "If you hear flats and sharps, you have to forgive me because we just rehearsed this last night."

"You" was so touching and poignant, it moved us to tears. His compelling interpretation of "Corner of the Sky" gave him his first standing ovation.

Basil recalled his yearly performances in Bacolod with Celeste Legaspi for deaf-mute children with his song, "With You." As he sang, he used his hands to do sign language.

Basil got his second standing ovation with his encore number, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan."

This is the first time we witnessed an artist come back on stage three times after his encore. People simply refused to leave their seats and clamored for more. Basil obliged, "My heart is full tonight and I want to share it with each of you." He sang "Lift Up Your Hands," "The Harder I Try," and "Paraisong Parisukat." He got his third standing ovation that night for his fourth encore number, "Paraisong Parisukat." We hope we can have more artists like Basil, who unselfishly gives satisfaction to his audience

Warner's DVD-audio launch

We took a peek at the latest in audio-visual entertainment when Warner Music had their DVD-Audio launch at the Shangri-la Plaza hotel last week.

Major releases like The Corrs' "In the Blue," The Doors' "L.A. Woman," Alice Cooper's "Billion Dollar Babies," Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours," "Neil Young's "Rock Road Vol. 1," Beethoven's "Symphonies 1-9" and Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" are under the new DVD-Audio format.

Happy Birthday Mitch, Jaclyn and Bert

First-rate comedienne Mitch Valdes turns 50 today and everyone's invited to her one-woman show at the Onstage Theater in Greenbelt. Aptly billed as "Golden Girl," Mitch enthralled her audience last Saturday and looks forward to again having a blast tonight.

Meanwhile, award-winning actress Jaclyn Jose turns 38 on Monday (Oct. 21) and she got her gift a few months earlier by way of a baby boy, her second. The baby, named Gwen Garimond, was born last June 15.

After reliving the joys of motherhood again and taking a second chance on love with a band guitarist, Jaclyn says she is raring to go back to work.

In fact, she'll be one of the 18 actors who were signed up for the GMA-7 drama series, "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga."

Meanwhile, Bert Nievera celebrated his 65th birthday with of shows last Wednesday and Thursday at his Country Waffles branch in Greenhills, which is also celebrating its first anniversary. Nievera proved that his talent is timeless with a pumped-up performance, accompanied by a 30-piece symphony orchestra.

To Mitch, Bert and Jaclyn—here's to even happier years ahead!

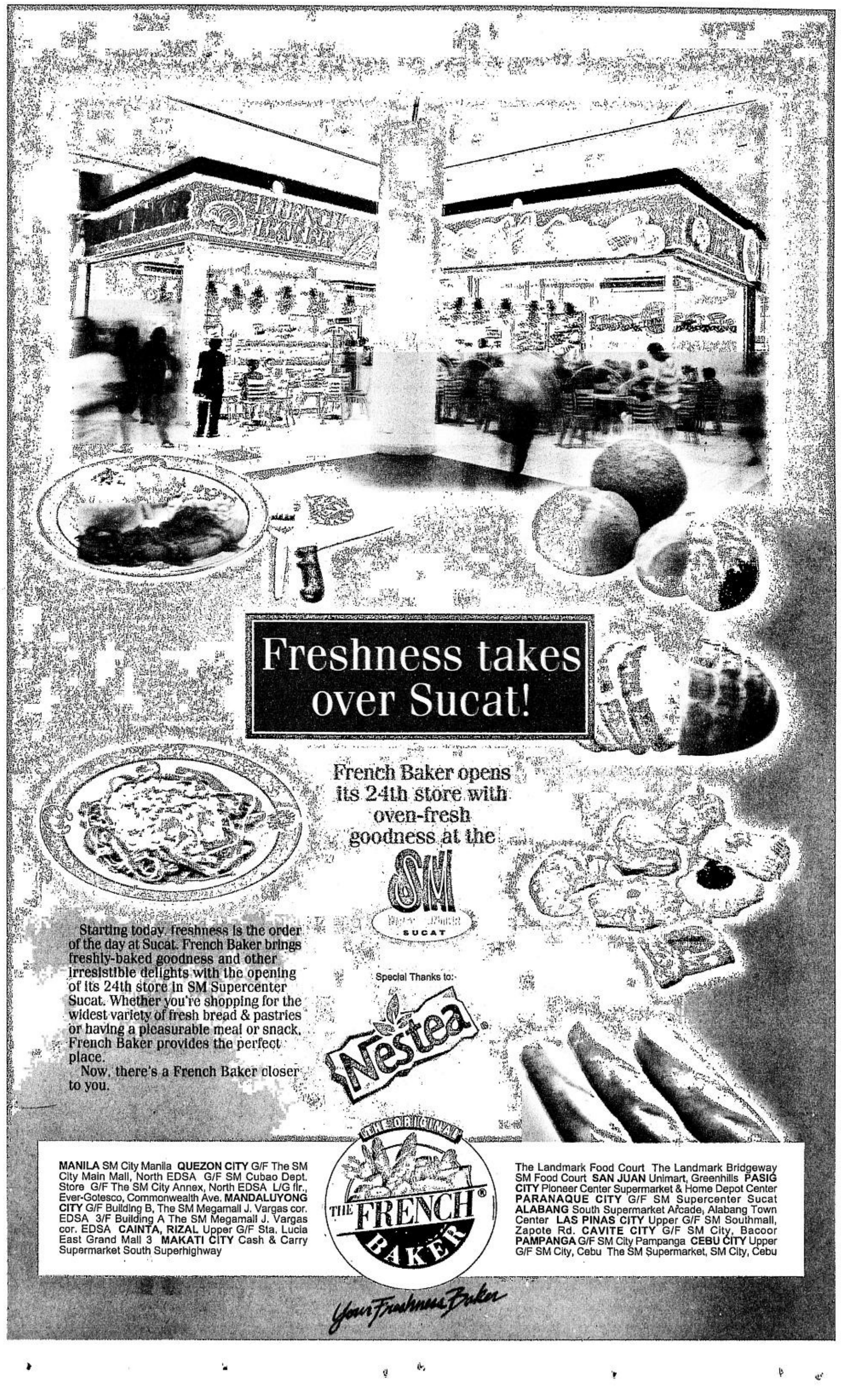
Notable newcomer

Among the many talented performers in the ongoing musical "Rent," there is a new face who's turning out to be the show's revelation. Her name is Lana Jalosjos and the girl is *good*!

Lana, a senior hotel and restaurant management student at UP Diliman, is the daughter of singer Lourna Pal and she's certainly got no recessive genes from her mom. Lana got her classical training in voice as a member of the highly-acclaimed UP Concert Chorus, with which she had the chance to perform in many cities abroad.

On the acting front, Lana admits that the role of Maureen is a big leap for any newcomer in theater, "because all I can remember doing before was playing Anita in 'West Side Story' and Carlotta in another school play."

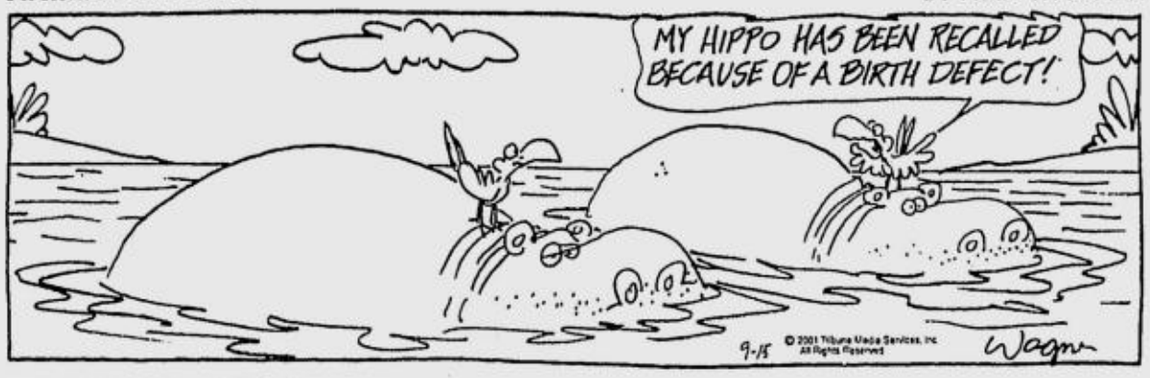
We first took notice of Lana recently when she played a small but significant part in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." In "Rent," she steals scenes without effort, and even shows her behind without any qualms.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

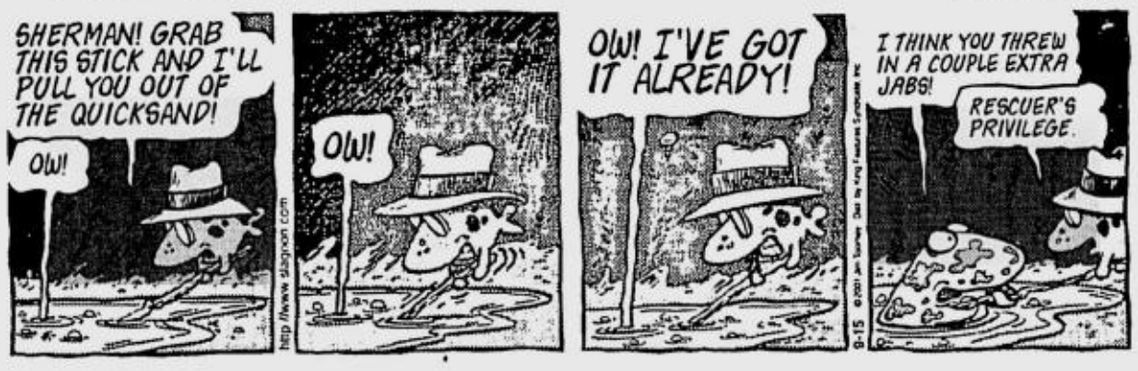
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER



PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dr. Joyce Brothers, Tom Petty, Keith Hernandez, Viggo Mortensen, Snoop Doggy Dogg

Happy Birthday: This is a year of achievement and satisfaction. You have the creative drive to accomplish all your goals, pleasing yourself and others. Your numbers: 9, 14, 22, 25, 31, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be burdened with other people's dilemmas and need added energy today. Don't fret or complain; just do the job quickly and move on to new projects.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A past romantic partner may surface, but you want to remain reserved. If you jump in too quickly, the relationship will be devastating and short-lived. Discuss what happened the first time around.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is a good day to discard what is no longer of use. Plenty of people can benefit from your generosity. You'll be gratified by your good deed and by the space you have made in your home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will need to act fast to get everything done. Picking up some necessary supplies will motivate you to get the show on the road. Once you begin, there will be no stopping you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make love, not war. Emotions are high, so it's not the best time to be vocal. You will lose respect if you don't follow through on your promises.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Everyone will want to be involved in your affairs today even if you are tight-lipped. Be careful with friends and family who will misinterpret your actions. Keep a watchful eye and refuse to make impulsive decisions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pamper yourself at home and avoid the malls. Purchases made today will cost too much, and you really don't need or want them. It's best to avoid the temptation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Remain calm and watchful and don't be goaded into a debate. You'll end up being ruthless and then feel sorry. Once you get started, it's hard to turn back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make changes to your residence that your family will enjoy. Property investments pay off. If you crave adventure, go out on the town with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be realistic. Don't sign up for events you haven't got the time for. You may feel obligated, but think about your own well-being. You need a break, not a pat on the back.

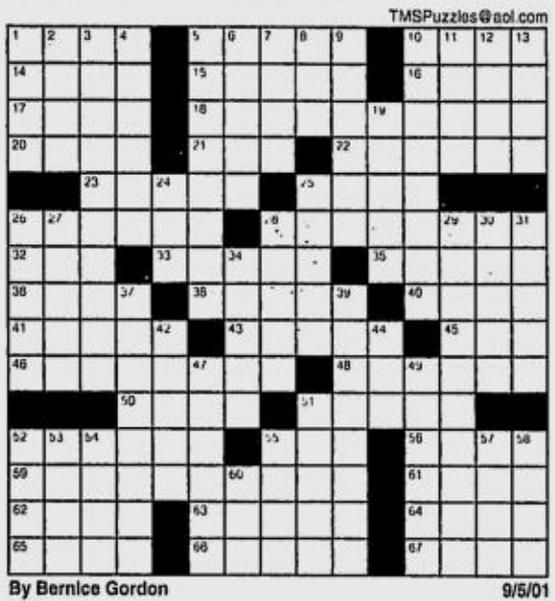
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's a hectic pace today. Organization will be important. Be prepared to say no if someone wants to dump his or her responsibilities in your lap.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Learning will be key to your future prospects. You can raise your earning potential by picking up additional skills or attending seminars. Taking action now will lead to prosperity later.

Birthday Baby: You are a born adventurer. You love your freedom and will wander around in search of knowledge, entertainment and amusement. You are diplomatic, engaging and fun to be around.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Bernice Gordon
Philadelphia, PA

9/5/01

ACROSS
1 Tight spot
5 Quickly
10 Projecting rock
14 Bassoon's kin
15 Language of Kuala Lumpur
16 Tibetan monk
17 Stitches
18 Star of 59A, 3D and 29D
20 XXIX x IV
21 "Norma __"
22 Sumptuous
23 Synthetic fabric
25 Partial: pref.
26 Check recipients
28 Fell upon
32 Gardner of "On the Beach"
33 Ross or Rigg
35 Irish bay
36 Reverse images: abbr.
38 Stoppage of breathing
40 Nervous
41 Actress Scacchi
43 Actor Fiennes
45 Styling product
46 James Stewart film, "The __ Story"
48 Hair ointment
50 Subsequently
51 Mercenary
52 Call on the set
55 Weighty weight
56 Scruff
59 Film co-starring Miriam Hopkins
61 Melt
62 Daybreak
63 "Mon __ d'Amerique"
64 Uncommon
65 Possesses
66 Recorded
67 Hebrew month

DOWN
1 Anjou relative
2 Wild goat
3 Film co-starring Paul Henreid
4 Craving
5 Food of the gods
6 Song of praise
7 Der __ (Adenauer)
8 Feline
9 Grommet
10 Collarbone
11 Sitarist Shankar
12 Kingsley or Martin
13 Deep cut
19 Gazelles of Sudan
24 Was in front
25 Writer Madame de __
26 Emotional spasms
27 Turn away
28 Kofi of the U.N.
29 Film co-starring Humphrey Bogart
30 __ on (incited)
31 Creator of Sherlock Holmes
34 Cook's coverage
37 Subway stops
39 Added as a supplement
42 Playwright Fugard
44 Respectful title: abbr.
47 Achilles __
49 Hindu incantation
51 Light fabric for curtains
52 Sphere starter?
53 Grub
54 Gull's cousin
55 Savoir-faire
57 Belem's state
58 Water vessel
60 6 on the phone

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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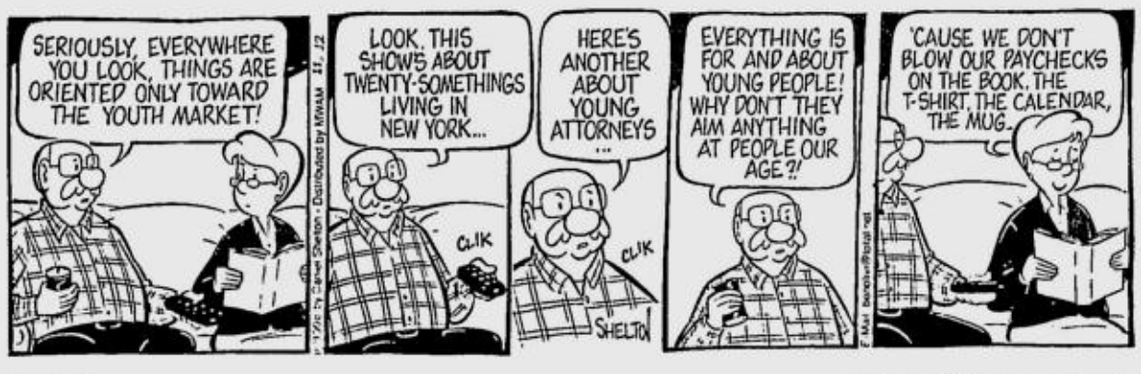
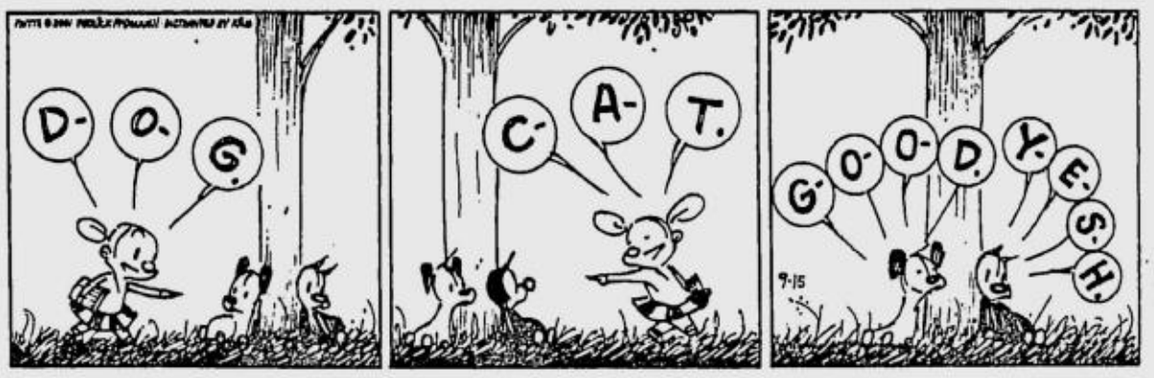
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

The private wars of Carina Agarao

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

"ATE Luds, I really don't care if they kill me. Death, I do not fear. I even look forward to it as an opportunity to be reunited with my husband."

Immediately, Crusade Against Violence president Carina Agarao struck me as a courageous, fatalistic warrior—which is a formidable combination, as has been discovered by her enemies in high places.

Lonely battle

She has held the reins of CAV for four years now and, despite the vulnerabilities that her adversaries have exploited to the hilt, she continues to fight the long, lonely battle for justice—first, for her husband Clarence, a lawyer who ironically was killed in almost the same way as the husband of his client, and allegedly by the same people, and also for all the victims of heinous crimes, especially those who come to her from the depths of their poverty and powerlessness.

The CAV has a special place in my heart. I'm proud that I was there since they started and honored to have received honorary membership in the group. It pains me now that the high level of goodwill and support that the organization used to enjoy seems to have been eroded because of the concerted efforts of some well-placed individuals who are the sworn enemies of Carina.

But first, who is Carina?

Before her husband's murder, Carina was an ordinary wife and mother, contented with the bliss that came from a happy and stable family life. She has an Economics degree form the University of the Philippines, but she wholeheartedly subsumed whatever personal longings for a career she may have had to focus all her loving attention on her family.

Portents

All that was changed by the assassin's bullet. She never knew, of course, that the peace and bliss they had before were just portents of the ugly things that came after. But the devastation she felt over her husband's brutal death awakened in her a passion she never knew she had—her anguished rage turned to a resolute resolve to seek and fight for justice, not just for her beloved Clarence but for all victims of violent crimes.

In this, she enjoyed the support of many but also earned the enmity of some powerful people. They are the antagonists in Carina's private wars.

It was tiring just listening to her litany of woes, but I felt her pain. And I admire her tenacity to fight while losing none of her integrity and purity of purpose, courage and spirit—not to mention her poise and composure against formidable odds. This woman, with all her charming vulnerability and seeming fragility, has more balls than most of the men she's fighting against.

Which made me curious about one thing: What makes her endure? Where does she get the sustenance to go on? Why does she not return to the anonymity and safety of motherhood? How will all this end?

"I endure because of the smile that the CAV is able to put on the faces of victims of heinous crimes for whom we have helped find justice. There are so many of us—the Villas, the Maguans, the Hultmans, the Bernabes, and many more through the years. It is our mission to help arrest the rising statistics of women and children widowed and orphaned by violence.

Memory

"I get sustenance from the memory of Clarence, whose legacy this is. On the morning of the day he died, I tried to convince him to just stay home because there had already been two attempts on his life before that. But his last words to me were: 'I will not let you change my destiny.'

"I long for the security of a simple life but I have to continue where my husband left off. Besides, I cannot possibly shirk the responsibility I recognize to have come form God.

"How will all this end? Ate Luds, the goal of CAV is to die because it shall have become irrelevant. But that will only happen if and when, finally, the system works. I'm afraid, for as long as there are criminals in the police force and corrupt men in government, the time for that will be long in coming."

But Carina is not losing hope. And she is all the more strengthened by the support of people who are not victims but believe in their cause and are willing to help in the crusade. Very soon, the CAV will launch its non-victim sector, which will be composed of supporters and advocates who have the commitment and conviction to fight the war on crime and violence in this country.

Ardor

Today, the Crusade Against Violence is holding its annual general election of officers. There's no doubt in my mind that Carina will again be voted as president—not that she ferociously needs this position for some selfish ends but because there doesn't seem to be anyone else who has the ardor and zealousness to battle against the monsters of our time.

"Ate Luds, I can no longer bring my husband back to life. Neither can the Maguans do that to Eldon, nor the Hultmans to Maureen. But if our concerted efforts can help other victims, the deaths of our loved ones would not have been in vain."

Count me in, Carina. I'm with you in that!

AGARAO. Courageous, fatalistic warrior.

AGARAO at a symposium on pornography.

Movies film buffs are looking forward to viewing

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

BEFORE the film year ends, some eminently viewable movies will be making their long-awaited debut on our movie screens. Get ready to enjoy watching:

Final quarter

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the most-awaited film during this final quarter of Film Year 2001, due out in November. Anticipation is high because the production is the first "filmization" of J.K. Rowlings' phenomenally popular series of children's books.

Harry Potter fans are so eager to see their young hero come alive on the silver screen that they even made a big hit of the movie's trailer! Can you imagine how thrilled they'll get over the film itself?

Thus far, the four Harry Potter books have sold a whopping 100 million copies. If only half of the people who bought those books see the film, that'll push the movie past the $100 M in terms of box-office gross, the mark of an "official" hit in Hollywood.

In our view, however, $100 M will be small potatoes for "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," which we expect to make *at least* $200 M. It could even end up as one of the 10 most popular films of all time.

Highlights

We say this not just because the books' popularity has "pre-sold" the movie, but also because the film has a lot of brilliant, compelling highlights in its own right, as some scenes in its long trailer indicate.

The Harry Potter movie is attractive and empathetic because it's about a seemingly ordinary boy who learns that he is a wizard. He is sent to a school of witchcraft and wizardry where he learns the occult arts along with a number of psychically-gifted youths.

Aside from learning magical tricks, Harry also goes on a magical journey to learn more about himself. Thus, his film is a feast, not just for the eyes and the imagination, but also for the heart.

Plus points

All these imaginatively seductive plus points make it more than likely that "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" will be hugely appealing to a wide range of viewers, children and adults alike, and cause it to emerge as the biggest hit of the year, possibly eclipsing even the stunning $250-M gross of the hit animated feature, "Shrek."

Also eagerly anticipated is "Hearts in Atlantis," directed by Scott Hicks, who

DANIEL RADCLIFFE as Harry Potter.

was nominated for an Academy Award for "Shine." Hicks' new film stars Anthony Hopkins as a wanderer who becomes a boarder in a house where a lonely boy lives with his widowed mother.

Excellent performances

The film has been praised for its excellent performances, with special mention going to Hope Davis as the widow. The movie is about the summer during which the boy grows up, and the strong influence that Hopkins' mysterious character has in him.

For its part, "O" (for "Othello") is an update for young audiences of Shakespeare's famous tragedy about jealousy. It stars 26-year-old Mekhi Phifer as the film's dark, brooding protagonist.

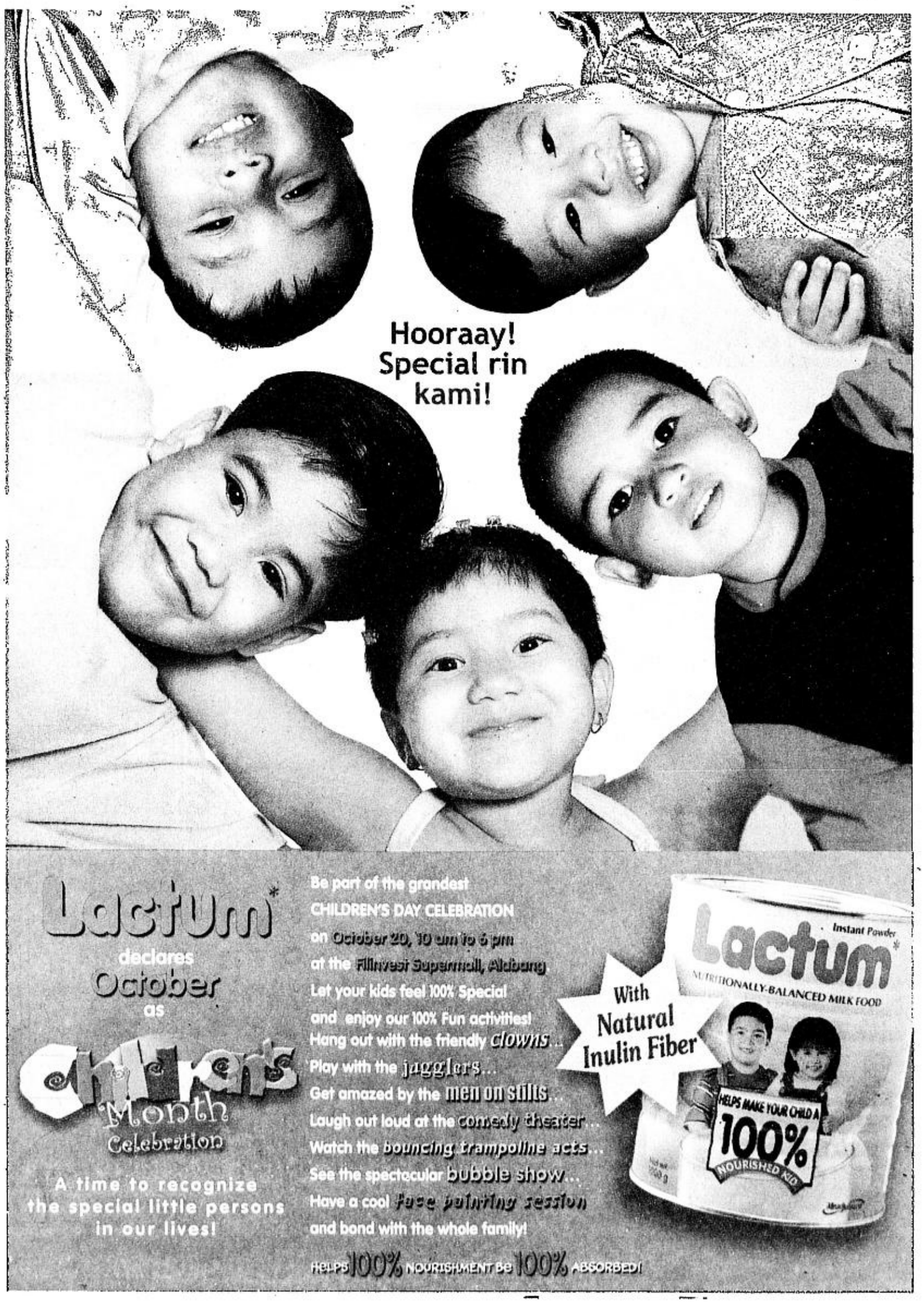
"Haiku Tunnel" is lauded as a clever and even hilarious movie about employment that should click with millions of 9-to-5 workers everywhere.

Temporary worker

The film's "ordinary hero" is a temporary worker who goes from office to office, meeting a veritable rogues' gallery of bosses and employees. When he is persuaded to accept a permanent position, he loses some important letters that he's supposed to mail, and has to come up with a series of wild ploys to cover up his huge mistake.

Finally, "The Others" showcases the critically-acclaimed performance of Nicole Kidman as a tormented woman who, together with her children, comes face to face with some ghosts—and discovers a terrible yet liberating truth.

Kidman's performance here has been described by reviewers as deep and subtle, and has boosted her reputation as one of the movies' most gifted and exciting young actresses.



Robert . . .

(From page D1)

Iron fist

Winter rules with an iron fist and a hair-trigger temper. Irwin listens, considers and plans, then reacts decisively.

And, after Winter shows what he's made of, Irwin rallies the dispirited prisoners and leads a revolt.

"He pulls them together by saying you are soldiers. Now, what is it like to be a soldier?. . . It is about courage. It is about loyalty. It is about a kind of commitment, and it is about honor," Redford said.

Before moviegoers think Hollywood is releasing "Last Castle" now to capitalize on the tragedy, that is not true. Movies take years to develop and produce, and the debut of "Last Castle" was set months before the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon that killed over 5,500 people.

The DreamWorks movie studio yanked the film's posters from theaters after Sept. 11, because it showed a picture of the US flag flying upside down-an international signal for distress and key to the film, but an insensitive image, now.

In the days and weeks after the attacks, a lot has been written about movie studios delaying the release of terrorist-themed movies and canceling projects.

Violence

Currently, no one in Hollywood knows exactly where movies are headed in terms of plots. Redford said that one thing is for sure, violence has always been a part of our culture and a part of the movies.

But like many others, the 65-year-old Oscar winner who is a major influence in Hollywood—whether it's speaking from the inside or on the outside as founder of the independent film supporter, the Sundance Institute—is unsure whether the attacks will change the types of films that get made. Will they be less violent? Will they be more patriotic?

"There's a lot of mixed emotions. One thing, hopefully, this film might do is just square away on a point of view of what it's like to be a military person," he said.

Reuters

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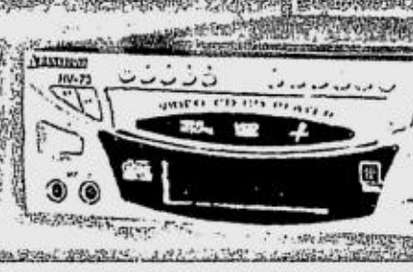

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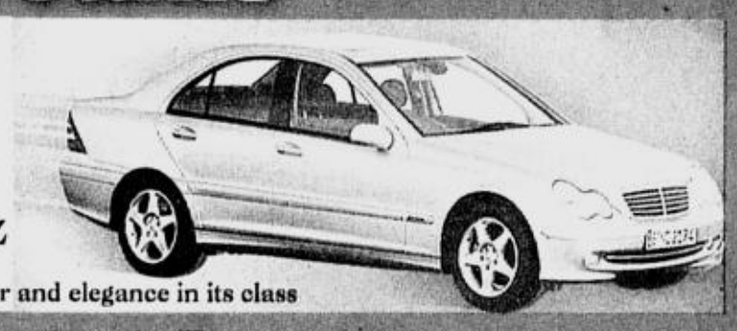

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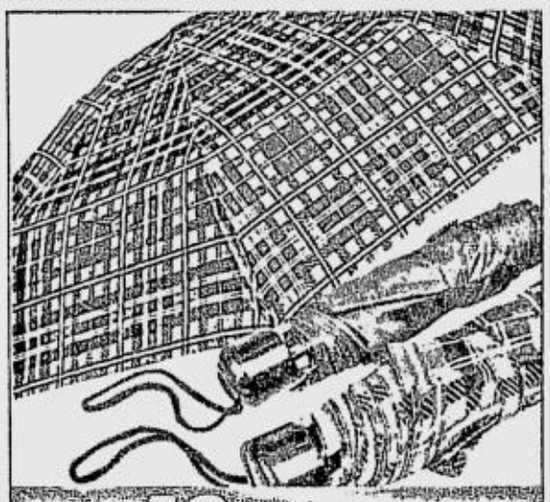

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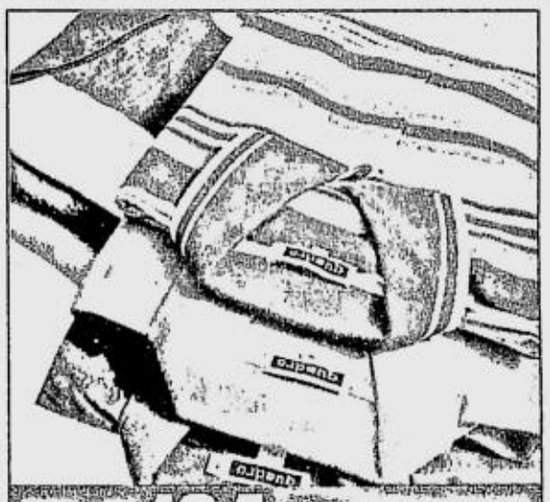

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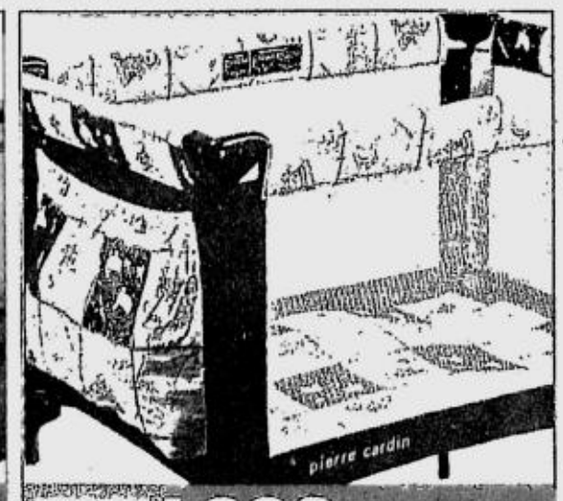

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Saturday SPECIAL

'Training Day' rules box office

LOS ANGELES—The Denzel Washington crime thriller "Training Day" topped the North American box office for a second straight weekend, edging the bank-robbery comedy "Bandits," which had a so-so debut despite generally good reviews.

Second place

"Training Day" took in $13.4 million, while "Bandits, starring Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton and Cate Blanchett, opened in second place with $13.1 million.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and ACNielsen EDI Inc.:

1. "Training Day," Warner Bros., $13.4 million, 2,712 locations, $4,936 average, $43.4 million, two weeks.
2. "Bandits," MGM, $13.1 million, 3,207 locations, $4,069 average, $13.1 million, one week.
3. "Corky Romano," Disney, $9 million, 2,062 locations, $4,376 average, $9 million, one week.
4. "Serendipity," Miramax, $8.8 million, 2,603 locations, $3,368 average, $26.4 million, two weeks.
5. "Don't Say a Word," Fox, $6.7 million, 2,729 locations, $2,460 average, $41.7 million, three weeks.
6. "Iron Monkey," Miramax, $6 million, 1,225 locations, $4,910 average, $6 million, one week.

'Zoolander'

7. "Zoolander," Paramount, $5 million, 2,522 locations, $1,995 average, $35.8 million, three weeks.
8. "Joy Ride," Fox, $4.9 million, 2,522 locations, $1,945 average, $14.7 million, two weeks.
9. "Max Keeble's Big Move," Disney, $4 million, 2,045 locations, $1,975 average, $10.9 million, two weeks.
10. "Hearts in Atlantis," Warner Bros., $2.7 million, 2,010 locations, $1,349 average, $20.7 million, three weeks.

TRAINING/p.E2

WASHINGTON. His film has made $40M in only two weeks.

WILLIS. Star of "Bandits."

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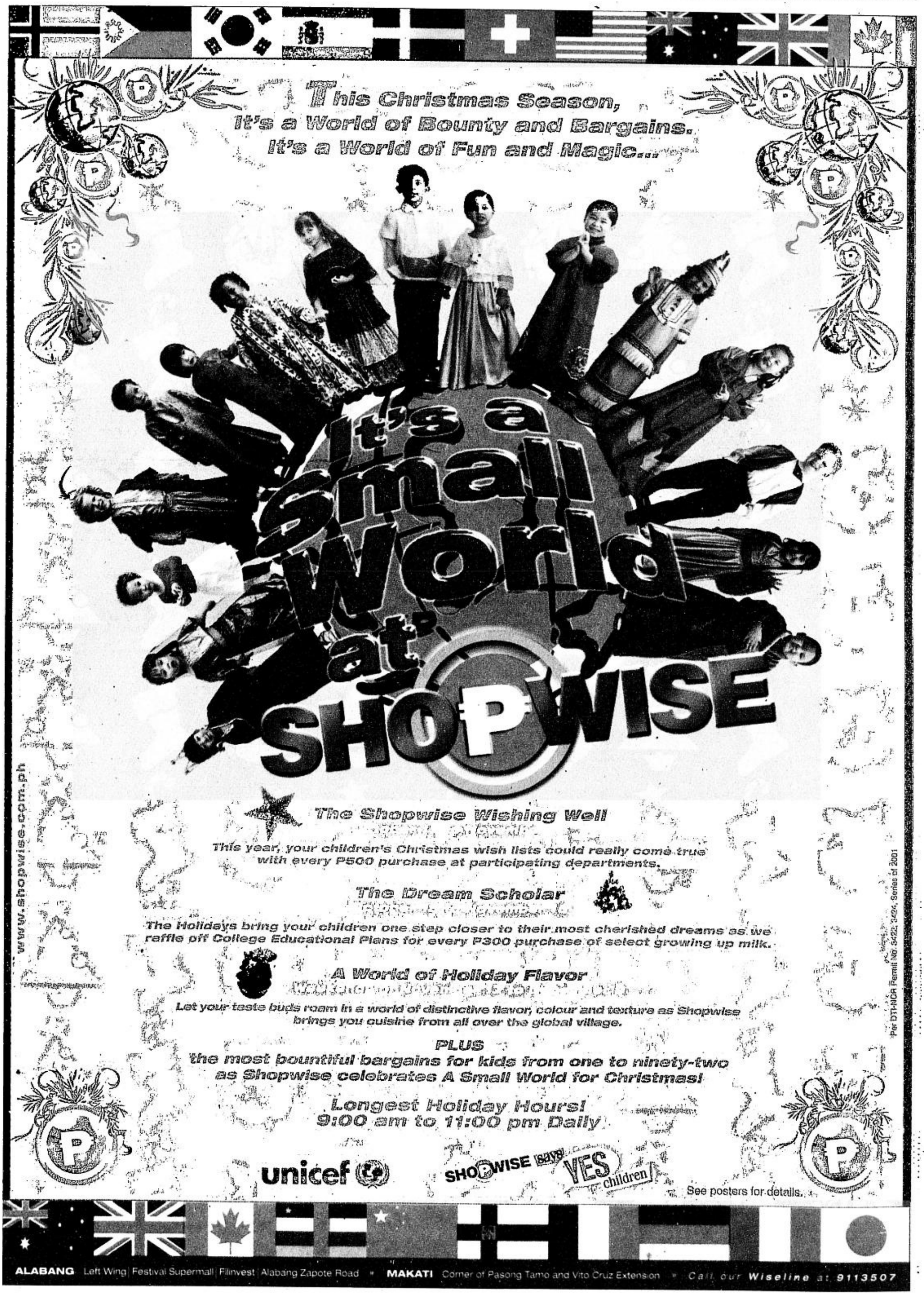


NEW TV SHOW

'Jessica Soho Reports' launched with coverage from Pakistan

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

THE FIRST telecast of GMA-7's "Jessica Soho Reports" was a special production because it had its host covering the war situation in Afghanistan. But it was less than an outright triumph because it surveyed the conflict from the safer ground of Pakistan, as a result of which some if its coverage was second-hand.

Continuing bombardment

Not that viewers wanted Jessica and her crew to risk life and limb reporting on the USA's continuing bombardment of the Talibans, but the new show's enthusiastic promotions gave the viewing public the notion that its coverage would be more in the thick of things.

Given the coverage's restrictions, the GMA-7 team was pretty much limited to visiting Afghan camps in Pakistan and interviewing some refugees on how life was in their homeland before the threat of US retaliation against the Talibans.

The coverage made some interesting points related to the restrictions on women in Afghanistan, the opium trade and life under the Talibans. After a while, however, the information on the war that it dispensed felt dated, going through facts and backgrounders that regular viewers of the cable news channels already knew.

The program did better when it didn't try to keep up with the international TV news networks, and localized its scope by focusing on Filipinos working in the area.

Particularly productive

Particularly productive was its interview with a Pinoy health worker who

SOHO. Warm, personal approach.

shared not only his experiences in Afghanistan but also some video footage of Kabul in ruins that he had shot on the sly.

Other Filipinos in Pakistan impressed viewers with their determinedly positive attitude about the war and what the future would bring. If only we here at home could be as resolutely optimistic!

A definite coup was Jessica's interview with the famous broadcast journalist Christianne Amanpour, believed by some to be the leading TV correspondent today.

Amanpour told it like it was: This was the most critical time for Pakistan in 30 years. Afghanistan had become a safe haven for lawlessness and for exporting terrorism.

In Pakistan, a vocal minority resents the United States. Some feel oppressed, but the vast majority of Muslims can differentiate between legitimate grievances and irrational violence . . .

Political upheavals

Less of a coup but also insightful was the program's interview with a relatively well-born Afghan refugee who shared how his family's fortunes had drastically dipped in the past decade due to the political upheavals that Afghanistan had been experiencing.

"But I don't hate anyone," he stressed. "I want peace." He further shared that he didn't really miss his family's old, much more prosperous lifestyle. But he still longed to return to his homeland. "When you feel at home, that's everything!" he sighed.

One cannot fault Jessica and her team on point of their resolve to go the extra mile in keeping their viewers informed. But, as they continue to work together, they should be able to gain a keener appreciation for which topics they can most productively handle, and which may be too big or restricted for them to adequately cover.

Revealing answers

For her part, Jessica Soho has the ability to come up with the right questions, but is sometimes too nice to press for really hard and revealing answers.

But she makes up in part for this with her warm, personal approach, specially when she's talking to the disadvantaged. We trust that, in time, she can become a more no-nonsense and tougher broadcast journalist—*without* losing her caring attitude in relation to her work and the people whose lives it touches.

Rachel and Hajji Alejandro perform at Captain's Bar

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

HAJII AND RACHEL. It was inevitable that his musical inclination would rub off on her.

RACHEL Alejandro was only three when her dad, Hajji sang the winning piece, "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika" at the Metropop. She remembers being carried by her grandfather backstage when the good news came. Last year, it was Rachel's turn to shine at the Metropop, when she performed the grand prize winner, "Forever and a Day." That time, however, Hajji was not around as he was driving down from Baguio after a performance.

Intimate concert

On Oct. 24, the two will get together in Incus Productions' "Just D 2 of Us," an intimate concert at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental. Although it was previously billed as their first concert together, we found out from Hajji and Rachel that they had performed together before. Rachel is quite excited about the concert, saying she learned everything she knows from her father.

Admitting she was and is "Daddy's Girl," Rachel recalls that Hajji would always take her along to his gigs and other musical happenings. When Hajji came out in musicals, Rachel would learn all the lines and blocking and call her dad's attention if he made a mistake. It was inevitable, therefore, that the father's musical inclination would rub off on Rachel.

She started out on German Moreno's "That's Entertainment" and eventually launched her singing career with such hits as "Mr. Cupido" and "Nakapagtataka." The latter song was also one of Hajji's hits in the '70s.

Sad time

When Hajji decided to go to the US to try his luck in a non-show biz venture, it was a sad time for the young Rachel who was not used to being separated from her dad. Once, she visited Hajji and felt so happy she seriously considered staying there for good. She told her dad she would just go back to the Philippines and finish her commitments, then she would come back and stay with him permanently.

On the plane trip home, however, she was recognized by many of the passengers, who greeted her warmly. She felt so good because of the adulation she received. She saw this as a sign that she should continue her musical career in the Philippines. That decision proved to be correct because today, Rachel is one of the leading stars in the music industry and a favorite performer in musical theater. Recently, she played Mimi in "Rent" in Singapore, and is reprising the role in the ongoing run of the hit musical at the GSIS Theater.

Hajji has had his own exposure in musical theater. He came out in "The Wiz" and local productions like "Tales of the Manuvu." It is as a singer, however, that he is best known.

Dubbed as the "Kilabot ng mga Collegiala," he started at a time when OPM was making a transition from translations of foreign songs to 100 percent original compositions. His songs like "Tag-Araw" and "Panakip Butas na Lamang" were some of the OPM hits that convinced audiences that local music was just as good as western music. His winning Metropop song became identified with him and was also used as an intro whenever local compositions were played on the air. With 14 albums to his name, Hajji was a pop idol, along with Basil Valdez..

Movies

Because of his popularity, Regal Films signed him up to do several movies including "Panakip-Butas" with Nora Aunor, which was based on his hit song. The movie included some torrid kissing scenes between him and Trixia Gomez. That initial movie appearance must have done well at the box office because he was soon doing another movie with another sexy star. On the first shooting day, he had to run out of a motel with nothing on but his briefs. When he came for the shoot, he felt uneasy because there were many colegialas watching from the sidelines. This was the audience that flocked to his concerts looking at him as a wholesome artist.

After the first day, Hajji decided the movies were not for him and quit. The singer felt that being a bold star was not appealing and concentrated on his singing career instead.

Worries

When he decided to return from the US and stay for good in the Philippines, he was worried about resuming his career. He needn't have worried because many of his old fans were still around, eager to recall the past through the songs identified with the singer. He even released an album containing many of his signature hits.

Today, there is no generation gap in the father-daughter singing tandem. They both recognize a good song when they listen to one and, although they have different repertoires, they respect each other as musical artists.

Simple yet juicy American burgers at Flamers

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THERE are two types of burgers I have been exposed to. One is our very own Pinoy burger. On its own, it is tasty and good enough to be an everyday "*ulam*," perfect with rice. The other is a typical American burger which goes perfectly with bread and condiments.

Most of these burgers are bland and, eaten alone, are not much different from chewing cardboard. Others are charbroiled to give them a more appealing flavor.

Craving

Whenever I develop a craving for either one, I make my own or drop by Jollibee and have their Burger steak meal. Same pattie as the Yum burger, but flexible enough to be an "*ulam*."

But whenever I crave for an authentic American burger, there are a few places I visit: I enjoy a double Whopper with cheese at Burger King, a Big Mac at McDonalds, a plain burger at the lobby of the New World Hotel (am not sure what category this falls in, but it's delicious just the same), and just a few months ago, I discovered this simple yet juicy American burger at Flamers.

Flamers Charbroiled Burgers is a franchise from the United States. Opened a few months ago, it serves, among other things, roast chicken, steak sandwiches, salads, french fries, onion rings and burgers. I get conflicting comments about this place, but I personally love it!

Balance

I particularly crave for the plain burgers. These are huge Australian-sourced hamburger patties made fresh daily and broiled in front of your eyes. The patty is huge enough to occupy the whole bun (don't you hate biting into a sandwich when the diameter of the burger is smaller than the bun?) and gives you a balance of both.

This freshly broiled burger is extremely bland *but* the moment you add mayo, catsup, mustard and other condiments like freshly sliced onion rings, sliced tomatoes, chopped lettuce, pickles and a few others, the sandwich comes to life! I like my burger with just catsup and mustard.

The sandwich is so juicy, the liquid oozes out of the sides of the burger. With a side order of crunchy and slightly salted french fries, it is a perfect meal. Portions are quite generous.

Every so often, I develop a craving similar to a Big Mac attack. I equate this desire with a delicious burger. The appeal of this particular burger is its simplicity, and the focus is on the star of the sandwich, the freshly broiled hamburger patty.

Next time you get a burger craving, check this place out. Flamers is along Meralco ave. across Brothers burger, Thai in the Box and Slices, that sandwich place that closed and caused some readers to want to "search and destroy" me. Forgive, you'll feel better!

Happy eating!

'Training Day' rules box office

(From page E1)

11. "Hardball," Paramount, $2.3 million, 2,012 locations, $1,167 average, $33.8 million, five weeks.

12. "The Others," Miramax, $1.8 million, 1,554 locations, $1,126 average, $93.2 million, 10 weeks.

13. "Rush Hour 2," New Line, $968,696, 1,012 locations, $957 average, $223 million, 11 weeks.

14. "Mulholland Drive," Universal Focus, $587,591, 66 locations, $8,903 average, $664,013, one week.

15. "Megiddo: The Omega Code 2," 8X Entertainment, $572,737, 295 locations, $1,941 average, $4.6 million, four weeks.

'Legally Blonde'

16. "Legally Blonde," MGM, $432,082, 836 locations, $517 average, $94.5 million, 14 weeks.

17. "The Glass House," Sony, $423,110, 685 locations, $618 average, $17.4 million, five weeks.

'The Princess Diaries'

18. "The Princess Diaries," Disney, $358,277, 581 locations, $617 average, $105.9 million, 11 weeks.

19. "Jeepers Creepers," MGM/UA, $335,347, 655 locations, $512 average, $37.2 million, seven weeks.

20. "American Pie 2," Universal, $328,285, 490 locations, $670 average, $143.8 million, 10 weeks. *AP*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT. 20 – OCT. 26

CH	7	2	5	11	9	13	23	29	E 31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 Auto Focus 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Wing Commander 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Tony Awards 2001* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Imbesiligador 6:30 Bitoy's World 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Malcolm In The Middle 7:30 Simpsons 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Thunderball* 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Viva Box Office 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 Reel Deal	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Dixie Carter* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story *Roseanne* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Scot Wolf* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Omar Epps* 12:00 El Coming Attractions
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 Business & Leisure 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Bird of Prey* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Pokemon 7:30 Sinerama 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment Tonight Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Romy & Michelle's High School Reunion* 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 10:00 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 Primetime Emmy Show (re-broadcast) 8:00 Creative Arts Awards (re-broadcast) 10:00 Primetime Emmy Post-Show (re-broadcast) 11:00 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Home Along Da Riles 10:00 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Speed 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night *Outrage* 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonballZ 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:00 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Artiss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In'Focus 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:30 Wild On *Mediterranean* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Oka Tokat 10:00 Pwedeng-Pwede 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Force of Two* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:00 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 10:30 Dear Heart 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Tim Allen* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Reese Witherspoon* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Whattamen 10:00 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonBall Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:00 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 11:10 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:00 The Weakest Link 9:30 Por Un Beso 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 New Music 6:30 Soundcheck 7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The Distirct 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 InFocus 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:30 Wild On *U.K.* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Attagirl 10:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulako 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Normal Ohio 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Daddy Di Do Du 10:00 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Souvenirs of the 20th century	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Behind The Music 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Kevin Sorbo* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Camila 9:00 Game K N B? 9:30 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Lazer Patrol 6:30 Starcom 7:00 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Royal Celebration*	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonBall Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Martin Nievera Live Onstage II*	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 Por Un Beso 10:00 Let's Play pool 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Halo-Halo 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News-Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Wild On *The Vine* 12:00 Talk Soup

ALBUM REVIEWS

Songs about love and growing up

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

Trip (original soundtrack)
Various Artists
Star Records Inc.

MOST of the songs in this album are about love and growing up. It's about being a teen, but what sets it apart is that it doesn't depict teens as whiny, smart-ass and sarcastic. Squeaky-clean with a few meaningful lyrics, the album gets the basic values and message of life across without being preachy.

Valuable lessons

"Trip Mo Ba" by Freshmen is about friendship, being a teen and coasting through life. It encourages teenagers to go through each experience with their eyes and hearts open. It pushes them to feel the joys and pains of growing up because this will teach them valuable lessons that can't be taught inside the classroom.

"Pangarap" performed by Barbie's Cradle is a mellow tune with great recall. It deals with the bittersweet experience of having a secret crush. It's mushy without going overboard. The lyrics "*Hanggang dito na lang yata ang kaya kong gawin, mangarap na lang at bumulong sa hangin*" hits the right balance between hope and longing, yearning and letting go.

Perfect anthem

"Barkada" sung by Chocolate Beef is a hip, catchy, upbeat ditty that's the perfect anthem for the youth. It's about living life to the fullest without being reckless and irresponsible. It speaks about the feeling of acceptance when you belong to a *barkada*.

"Girl" is obviously a revival of Timmy Cruz's "Boy." Wonder if they got the permission of the composer to change the word "girl" to "boy." It plainly narrates the travails of being "*torpe*." Mike Luis did not improve on Timmy's version, but it will do.

"Talunan Na Puso" performed by Session Road is a catchy tune that speaks about heartbreak and rejection. What's unique about the song is that it compares love to the fast-paced game of basketball when it's down to its last 10 seconds.

"Buhat Ng" is a love song with a hip-hop arrangement and feel. It describes how love can totally change a person's outlook and attitude. People in love have a tendency to see things through rose-colored glasses. This song gives a positive twist to that attitude because it urges you to desire the feeling of being in love. When your heart is full of love, you appreciate life and people more.

"Napapa-Uhhh" is an amusing ditty by Gladys and the Boxers. It speaks of a girl's chameleon-like moods when she's in a relationship. It encourages girls to be themselves even if they're immersed in a loving relationship.

"Trip Mo, Trip Ko" sounds hip-hop and cool. It deals with how people grow up and life gets complicated, but the journey is still a good adventure trip.

The album is a refreshing collection of honest, hopeful songs that lifts the spirits. This kiddie-pop-rock stuff is a rare find.

The A+ List
a1
Sony Music Phils.

Aside from gushy unrequited and heartbreaking formula love songs, this album tries to add substance into a1's music. It has one cheesy love song, "I'll Take the Tears," that goes overboard with its mushiness. But the rest of the album is tolerable.

"Take On Me" is a revival of A-Ha's new wave hit in the late '80s. It's melodic and laid-back but not as brilliant as A-Ha's version—maybe because it tries so hard to improve on the original and the extreme effort shows in each stanza of the song.

"Same Old Brand New You" deals with reconciliation with an old flame, only to discover that the same old issues in the relationship are unresolved. The girl promises to change but only resumes her old behavior.

The lyrics, "*Because of you, I guess we're through. Is this the way it has to be? I've been a fool. A fool for you. But I've got better things to do than let you walk all over me*" urge us to walk away from a bad relationship, especially when it begins to tear us apart inside. It encourages us to stay away from emotional manipulation.

"No More" is about a guy being pushed to his limit. His girlfriend walks back and forth between him and an old boyfriend. As you listen to the song, you begin to wonder if it's written sincerely or acerbically.

Second chance

"One More Try" begs a girl for a second chance. A guy simply can't let his girlfriend go because he feels he can't find someone else like her. It shows that guys can be sensitive and humble when they realize their mistakes.

"The Things We Never Did" is about two buddies who discover that there's more than friendship in their relationship. The girl is scared to take their relationship to the next level because it might ruin the friendship.

The guy convinces her to take that "leap of faith" and give him a chance. The lyrics, "*If you try then at least you'll see. Then you'll never regret the things we never did*" urge us to get rid of what-ifs and just follow our feelings.

"Too Bad Baby" deals with a guy's fragile ego when he knows that he's about to be dumped. It's about a guy's desire to work things out even if he knows that his girlfriend has fallen out of love.

"Nothing But Trouble" is similar to Ricky Martin's "Shebang" but with less oomph and energy. It's about a guy's dangerous attraction to a heartbreaker.

The album has the right mixture of love songs and funky beats formulated to make listeners swoon and dance. Though a1 sounds better here, they still sound mechanical.

a1 put their blood, sweat and tears in the production of this album, but they fail to put their hearts into their songs. Not even the inclusion of a bonus disc (Beatles medley, "Miracle," "If you Were My Girl," "Three Times a Lady," "I Got Sunshine," "Funking Up") can make up for this.

THE A LIST. Blood, sweat and tears.

"TRIP." Hopeful songs that lift the spirit.

Tessie Tomas is versatility plus

BY RODOLFO A.G. SILVESTRE JR.

TOMAS. First Lady of Stand-Up Comedy.

"PRESENTADA." That's the exact word her mother used to describe Tessie Tomas when she was just a schoolgirl.

Costumes

"I was always volunteering for this role and that. And my mother was complaining because she had to provide my costumes. They were expensive because these were religious plays," says Tessie.

In high school, she was at it again. "We were all girls and no one would play Jose Rizal. So, who else would?" Moustache and all, she portrayed the role with a matching man's voice.

Laura Hermosa, a radio soap talent whose voice dominated the airwaves in years gone by, could not complain. Today, her *presentada* daughter is the First Lady of Stand-Up Comedy.

Add to this other titles, awards, and unforgettable roles on stage, television, and the movies, and you have "Teysi @ Tweynti," a solo comedy show celebrating Tessie's 20 years in show biz. With two more playdates on Oct. 26 and 27 at the Music Museum, Tessie juggles her time between tapings for her television show, "Feel At Home," and demanding rehearsals.

Concept

"The concept for the show is mine. When you watch it, you'll see my old roles, but you'll also see new ones, based on popular personalities now dominating the scene," she reveals.

"But I enjoy myself in this one. Here I am as I am, and let's all have fun together!

"What I'm trying to capture is the innocence and spontaneity of those years when I was just starting. And a lot of the unpredictability that came with those shows."

Looking back: Her "political" roles gave her recognition beyond her imaginings. "Meldita," which depicted the life of the Imeldific one, ran for a year and a half all over the country and abroad.

Ludicrous as her role was, it was nonetheless the same Imelda, although a serious and resolute one, that a year earlier Tessie portrayed in "A Dangerous Life," a six-hour television mini-series. Extensively shown in Asia, Australia, USA and Europe, it got her an Emmy Awards nomination in the Best Supporting Actress category.

Stage plays

In the movies, Tessie had been sweeter. Her filmography is replete with self-explanatory titles, like "Walang Matigas Na Pulis," "Singsing Ni Pacing" and "Barbi for President." On stage she played Candida in Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino." Recently, she again took to the stage in another Joaquin play, "Pinoy Agonistes."

Channel 2 undoubtedly stretched her versatility. In the telenovela "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako," she was a *contravida*. "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata," a multi-awarded sitcom, had her playing Barbara Tengco, the glamorous but neurotic pill-popping wife of corrupt congressman Anding Tengco, and mother to the spoiled, maladjusted, gun-totting Dino Tengco.

How can one forget "Teysi ng Tahanan," her late-morning show, which ran for more than six years? Although she tackled serious topics, Tessie shifted the mood now and then with something light and useful.

But there was a downside, too. Like when she attempted an Oprah by getting together an estranged husband and wife, without the latter's knowledge that they would be together on the show. When the husband was finally presented to her, the angry wife went into hysterics and shouted expletives at the husband, to the audience's discomfiture.

Hectic pace

Tessie could have gone on and on, secure in the knowledge that she was giving the audience fun, knowledge and a host to identify with. But she begged off from the hectic pace when life would give her a second chance she could not refuse. After she married Roger Pullin, she decided to pay more attention to him and to her son Robin.

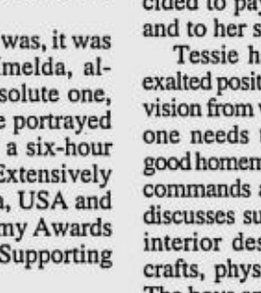
Tessie has since reassumed her exalted position as the woman on television from whom to learn everything one needs to know about being a good homemaker. Her "Feel at Home" commands a loyal following, as she discusses such women's interests as interior design, cooking, arts and crafts, physical fitness and fashion. The boys and men too take tips from her as they have taken on homemaking roles that in the past would have been perceived as effeminate.

Time has indeed flown fast. Twenty years after she started in show biz, Tessie Tomas can look back with gratitude in her heart, not forgetting those who have been kind to her—Channel 2, her colleagues in the business, the press, and, of course, her fans.

"And of course, my parents, especially my mother who gave me that early exposure in show biz!"

Promising local films on TV

BY NESTOR U. TORRE



GOMEZ. Star of Ishmael Bernal's "Wating."

FROM time to time, readers ask us how they can get to view some good Filipino movies from seasons past. We advise them to scout for old tapes in video stores, keep an eye out for special screenings, and to sift through the offerings on our local movie channels on free TV or cable.

Gems

Most of the local films shown on TV may be dull and sullen coal, but once in a while, some gems can be spotted, glinting in the dark. For instance, here are some above-average movies showing on Viva Cinema until the end of the month:

Saturday, Oct. 20, 6 a.m., "Masarap, Masakit ang Umibig." 6 p.m., "Sinasamba Kita."

Sunday, Oct. 21, 12 noon, "Sugat sa Ugat."

Monday, Oct. 22, 12 midnight, "Biktima." 4 a.m., "Palipat-lipat, Papalit-palit."

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2 a.m., "Sana Bukas Pa Ang Kahapon." 2 p.m., "Misis Mo, Misis Ko." 6 p.m., "Balahibong Pusa."

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 4 a.m., "Sa Isang Sulok ng mga Pangarap." 8 p.m., "Palabra de Honor."

Thursday, Oct. 25, 8 a.m., "Batang Lansangan."

Friday, Oct. 26, 2 a.m., "Ugat." 12 noon, "Paloma."

Saturday, Oct 27, 12 noon, "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa."

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2 a.m., "Pakawalan Mo Ako."

Monday, Oct. 29, 4 a.m., "Hanggang Dito na Lang." 2 p.m., "Tinik sa Dibdib."

Tuesday, Oct 30, 8 a.m., "Segurista." 2 p.m., "Saranggani." 6 p.m., "Paano Ba ang Mangarap?"

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m., "Anak sa Una, Kasal sa Ina."

On Cinema One

Meanwhile, on the Cinema One channel, you can give these promising films a go:

Oct. 20, 2 p.m., "Diliryo." 5:30 p.m., "Sa Paraiso ni Efren." 8 p.m., "Lucia."

Oct. 21, 10:45 a.m., "Damong Ligaw." 8:30 p.m., "Tunay na Mahal."

Oct. 22, 12 midnight, "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin." 11:45 a.m., "May Minamahal." 5:45 p.m., "Virgin Island."

Oct. 23, 5:15 p.m., "Shame." 10:30 p.m., "Batang Pro"

Oct. 24, "Ibulong Mo sa Diyos, 2." 8 p.m., "Luksong Tinik."

Oct. 25, 8 a.m., "Lalakwe." 3:45 p.m., "Batang PX."

Oct. 26, 10 a.m., "Babae." 12:15 p.m., "Sambahin ang Ngalan Mo."

Oct. 27, 5:15 p.m., "Mana sa Ina."

Oct. 28, 8:30 p.m., "Tabi Tabi Po."

Oct. 29, 1 a.m., "Shake, Rattle and Roll, 1." 5 a.m., "Wating." 11:45 a.m., "Sa Ngalan ng Pag-Ibig." 8 p.m., "My Other Woman."

Oct. 30, "Shake, Rattle and Roll 6."

Oct. 31, 1:45 p.m., "Magandang Hatingggabi." 8 p.m., "Madrasta."

The standouts in these lists are "Wating," "Segurista," "Biktima," "Madrasta," "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa," "May Minamahal," "Lalakwe" and "Shake, Rattle and Roll, 1." Not a bad harvest of good Filipino films in just 11 TV days. Happy viewing!

GREEN

IN BLACK & WHITE. INQUIRER is the ONLY Philippine newspaper to use 100% soy-based ink. Unlike petroleum-based inks, soy ink emits no toxic fumes, and makes recycling faster and easier. Together with award-winning environmental coverage and the use of recycled newsprint, it's another of INQUIRER's choices for the planet. The short-term cost is well worth the long-term benefits: less ink on your hands, less fumes in the air – and a paper where the only thing potent is the news.

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Live life at the Shang. And discover the magic of Bangkok.

the Winning Streaks of the Shangri-La Plaza

Be a winner – twice over!

Your dream getaway. Could anything be more heavenly? At the Shang, you can get a chance to win it, in the Winning Streaks of the Shangri-La Plaza.

Shop at the Shang from now until October 31, 2001. Every P2,500 spent in a day qualifies you for a chance to win fabulous prizes again and again.

There are two ways to win this October:

GET A CHANCE TO WIN IN THE RAFFLE

Fill up a raffle card, and get a chance to win:
- A Trip for 2 to Bangkok, Thailand via Thai Airways with Weekend Accommodations at the Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok
- Exquisite Jewelry from Washington Jewelry Store
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Match 3 cards in this order:

Shangri-La + Shangri-La + Plaza

And win Pioneer Mini-Components instantly!

So shop at the Shang, and get a chance to win!

Pioneer
Shangri-La hotel
BANGKOK
Thai

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2001 ✧ 16 PAGES ✧ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 54

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Iggy Ipis Time Traveling — Page 13
- The Lunch Box — Page 15

Furry, Feathered, Scaly Magic

More than a hundred families in Quezon City honor their pets during World Animal Day

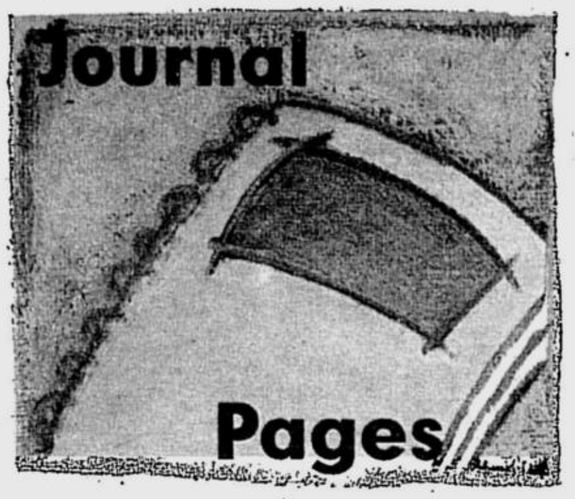
BY NATASHA VIZCARRA

SECURITY guard Jercil Cadasas hugged Rum—a 3-month-old cream-colored native puppy—to his chest as he watched the offering during Holy Mass. Followed by their owners, two big dogs walked on the church aisle each clutching a basket of flowers in their jaws. Other people held baskets of fruits and walked with their pets to the altar. Instrumental Mass music floated in the air. All *Mang* Jercil could do was cry.

Furry/ p. 6

SPICE DOG. Noore Alawneh, 10, and her sister Kriska, 7, hug Spice, their 4-year-old toy poodle before the blessing at Mt. Carmel Church. "She's sweet and doesn't bite or bark a lot."

CJ BUNOAN



Hello High School

BY DIANA CELERINA E. AVIADO
JOSE ABAD SANTOS MEMORIAL SCHOOL, QUEZON CITY

FIRST day of high school, what a day to remember. My best friend Jean and I were looking forward to that day.

It was a good thing we were still classmates. But we were sad because we were leaving elementary forever. We were in Freshman class Section Circle and there we saw one of our good friends, Ainisa. We sat beside her immediately.

The first week of high school was not as bad as I had thought but the difference is there's lots and lots of homework! But on the bright side, we got another chance to make new friends.

Ainisa on the other hand just made more enemies. She tried to make friends with the new student Jason but instead of liking each other they started hating each other. Good thing I stayed out of it and became both their friends.

The teachers were all very nice and funny especially Miss Mo. Plus there was a new principal Ms Berran.

There are lot of stories, lessons and memories that are just waiting to be discovered in high school, but even if I have to leave grade school, I will never leave the joy and pain that came with it. I will never forget that time in my life when I was still considered a kid.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

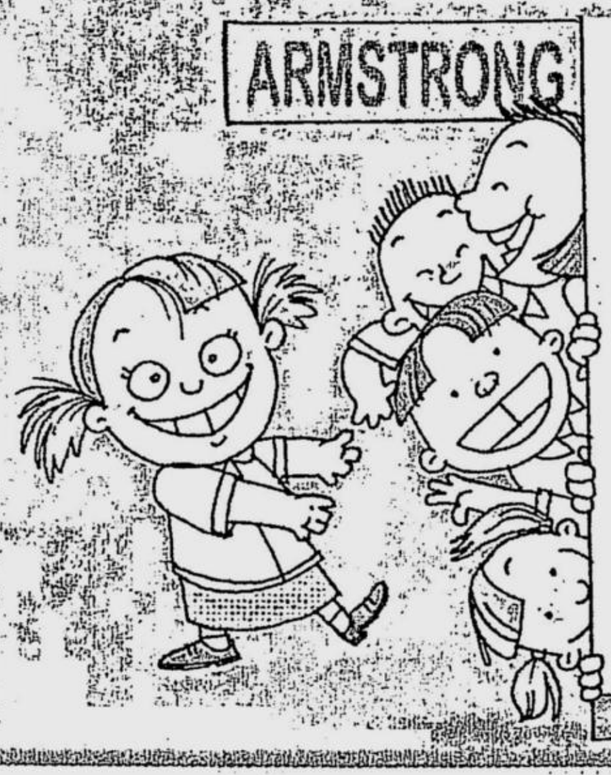
Letter From a Grown-Up: I Love Armstrong Too

I WROTE because a short article titled "Armstrong: The Section I Love" and written by Jemimah Grace N. Garcia of Manila Science High School in the Oct. 6 issue of JI really moved me. It sent me on a trip down memory lane.

I also attended Manila Science High School from 1984 to 1988. I belong to Armstrong Batch 1984 and just like Jemimah and Armstrong Batch 2001, my section was very close-knit with a good blending of math and science wizards and "dancers, singers, artists and dreamers."

Until now, we still keep in touch through our batch foundation and masci1988@yahoogroups.com, even after 13 years since high school graduation.

I would like to congratulate you and your staff for always putting out a great magazine every week.—**CLAIRE MOGOL**



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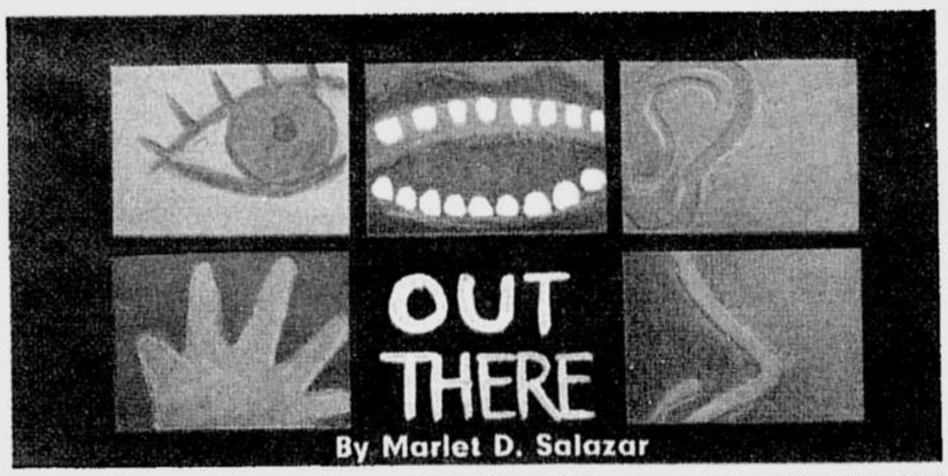


Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contest

TEEN LIT CAMP. Adarna House and Filipinas Heritage Library invites all teens ages 13-16 to submit their works in fiction, essay or poetry, and vie for a slot in the 2nd Annual Teen Lit Camp. It is a week-long out-of-town camp for teen writers. The Camp will feature talks by established writers, discussions, and other activities related to writing. For more info call up 372-3548 or 49 or send an email to adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph

Activities

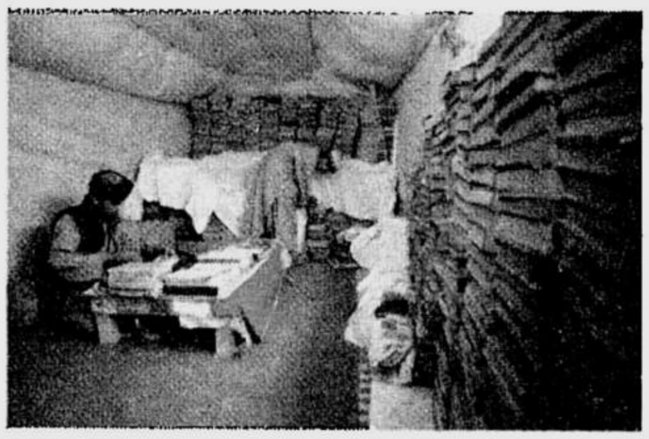
PRE-HALLOWEEN PARTY. Dress up and be a part of Sacred Heart School Shangri-La's Halloween Costume Party today at 3 p.m. at the Mini Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. The activities include face painting, storytelling, magic show and exciting games and surprises. For inquiries call up 636-1227 or 631-9759.

***i* CLUB HALLOWEEN PARADE.** Gear up *i* Club members! SkyCable and Cartoon Network will hold a Halloween parade on Oct. 27 at the Alabang Town Center, Activity Center at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Join in the fun and win prizes as Scariest Mom and Child, Most Creative Mom and Child, Best Cartoon Network Character and Funniest costumes. For more information call up 910-1577 for pre-registration or visit the i Club headquarters SkyCable, GF Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center.

SCHOOLS' MUSICAL COMPETITION. Watch the interschool Musical Competition presented by the Jollibee Kids Workshop Club in celebration of Children's month. The contest will be held at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall today at 10 a.m. Participating schools include: Cainta Catholic College, ACE Montessori, ADT Montessori, San Lorenzo Ruiz Elementary School, Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, Cainta Elementary School, Santolan Elementary School, Marikina Elementary School, Baptist Academy of the Philippines, Manggahan Elementary School and Sto. Niño Elementary School. For more details call up Ms Rianne Torefranca at 681-5132 or 681-7320.

Out There/p. 12

WORLD SCOPE



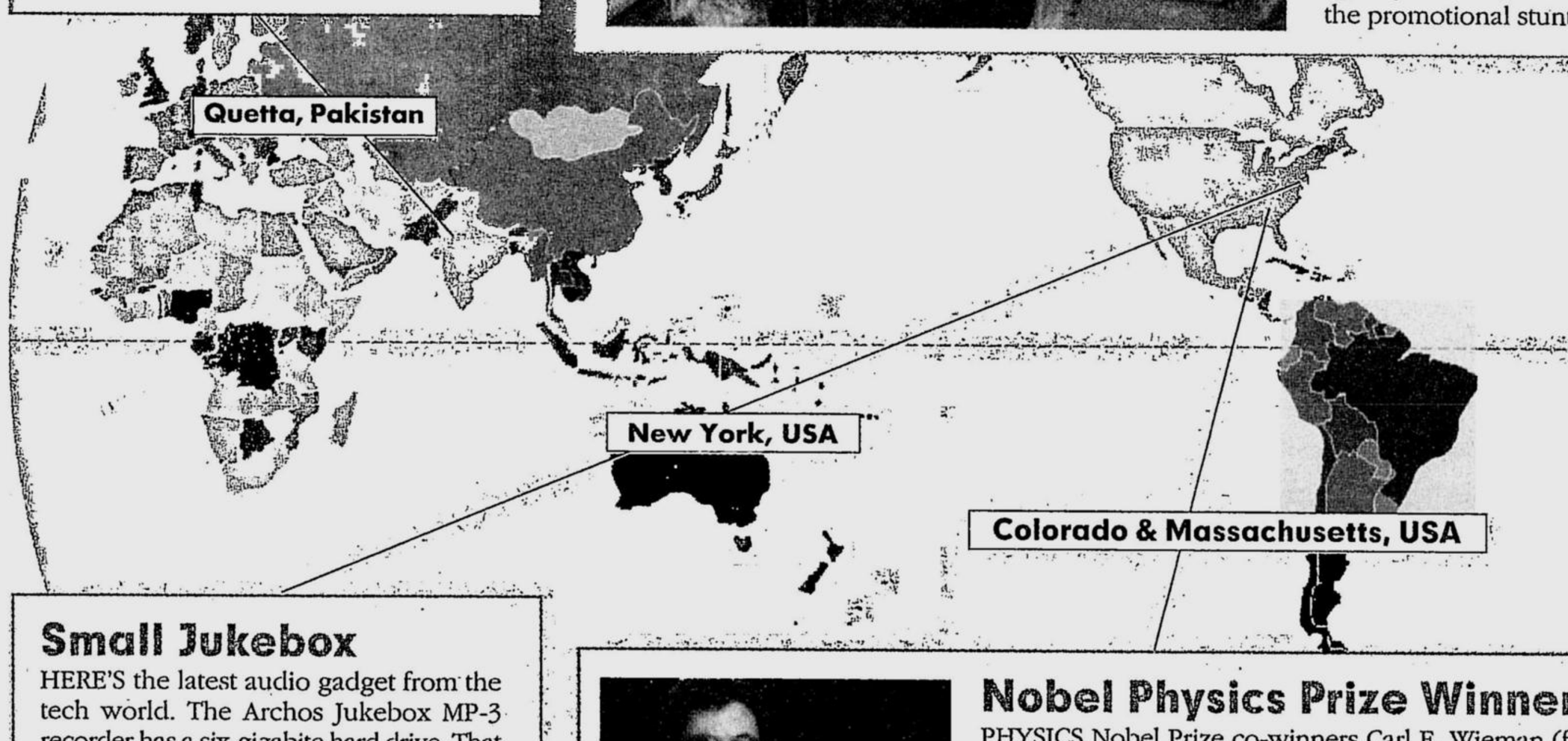
A Treasure Trove of Korans

TWO of Wali Mohammed's eight helpers sort through Korans for possible restoration in a Pakistan mountainside. Mohammed, 65, believed that all unused Korans should be preserved. He started 30 years ago to collect and store them in tunnels. Now 65,000 sacks bulge with tattered copies, more than a million in all. He plans to donate them to fellow Muslims who need a copy of their holy book. ***AP***

Outer Space

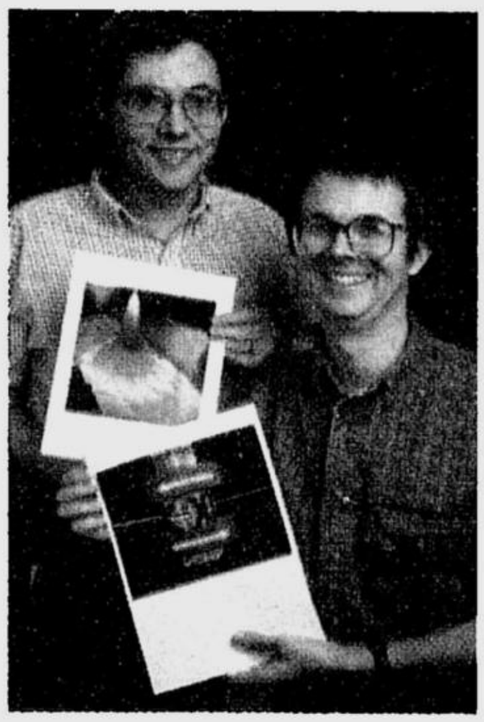
Advertising in Space?

RUSSIAN cosmonaut Yuri Usachov gestures while eating pizza aboard the International Space Station. Pizza Hut said it shipped the pizza aboard a Russian spaceship used to resupply the station and paid the Russian space agency about $1 million for the promotional stunt. ***AP***



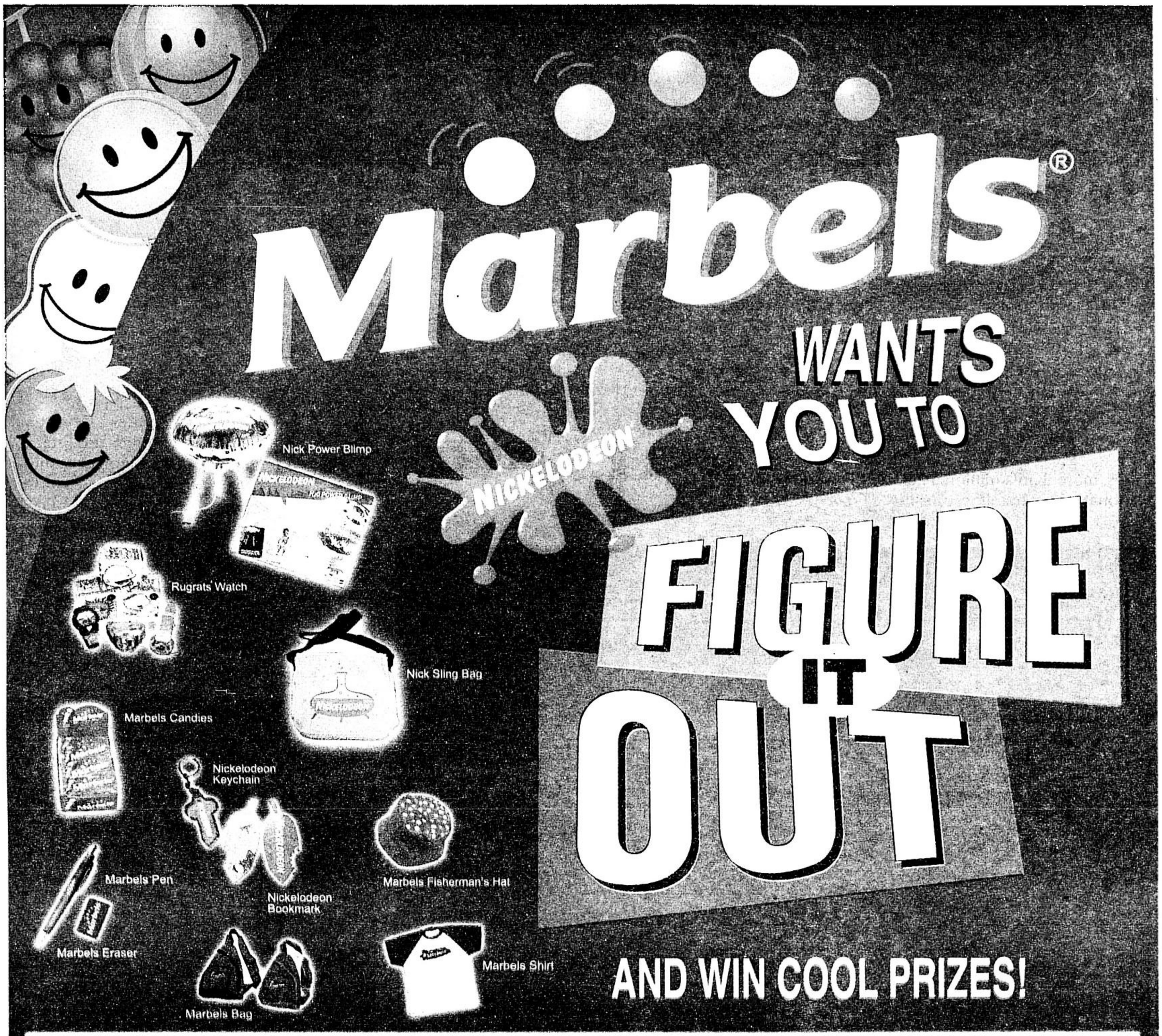
Small Jukebox

HERE'S the latest audio gadget from the tech world. The Archos Jukebox MP-3 recorder has a six-gigabite hard drive. That means you can listen to over 100 hours or 6,000 minutes of CD-quality music. You can also conveniently store all your personal non-music files in the gadget and listen to music for eight hours before recharging the 4 NIMH batteries. ***AP***



Nobel Physics Prize Winners

PHYSICS Nobel Prize co-winners Carl E. Wieman (far left), Eric A. Cornell (center) and German-born Wolfgang Ketterle (at right) shared the award for creating a new state of matter: an ultra-cold gas that could aid in developing smaller and faster electronics. The three men's creation of the Bose-Einstein condensate in 1995 could lead to ways to make ever-tinier electronic circuits. The new technology could eventually be used to draw computer circuits by depositing a stream of atoms on a circuit board. ***AP***



MARBELS WANTS YOU TO FIGURE IT OUT is a nationwide contest open to kids **age 6 to 14 years.**

All you have to do is watch Nickelodeon and answer the Figure It Out question:

"Who is the host of Nickelodeon's Figure It Out?"

a. Summer Sanders
b. Angelica Pickles
c. Helga

"Figure out" the correct answer from the choices given, write it on a piece of paper together with your **name, age, address and telephone number**. Enclose **2 empty wrappers of Marbels** and send it to:

MARBELS WANTS YOU TO FIGURE IT OUT CONTEST
PO Box 12500 Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City
or
Van Melle (Phils.), Inc.
16th Floor Octagon Centre, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Remember kids, Marbels wrappers must be in good condition, meaning 3/4 of it must be intact to qualify as an entry.

3 Grand Prize winners will each win:
- Nick Power Blimp
- Rugrats Watch
- Nick Sling Bag
- Marbels Pen
- Marbels Shirt
- Marbels Eraser
- Marbels Fisherman's Hat
- Marbels Candies

10 Runners-up will get:
- Marbels Bag
- Marbels Pen
- Marbels Eraser
- Marbels Shirt
- Marbels Candies

1,000 other winners will get:
- Nickelodeon Keychain
- Nickelodeon Bookmarks

Winners will be notified via registered mail or telephone.

Hurry! Deadline for submission of entries is on **October 21, 2001**.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0715 series of 2001.

Marbels Wants You To Figure It Out Contest is brought to you by Nickelodeon - the TV channel for kids and Marbels Candies - Only In The Marbels World.

Furry, Feathered, Scaly Magic

(From page 1)

"I remembered all my other pets who have passed away," he said.

JUNIOR INQUIRER's Marlet Salazar, who came with a picture of her native pet dog Bitoy, also cried during the offering. "I don't know why," she said. "I can't explain it."

Well, *Mang* Jercil, Marlet as well as many other pet lovers may or may not be able to explain that magical moment during the Mass offering. But what was important was that they were all there, more than 100 families and their pets, to celebrate and honor their furry, feathered or scaly friends.

Respect for Animals

A pet is a friend and a pet is family. This is the reason why the Philippine Animal Welfare Society or PAWS, organized the Holy Mass and blessing of pets on Oct. 7 at the Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City.

"We want people to value their relationships with their pets and have compassion and respect for all animals," said PAWS member Cristina delos Reyes. She came along with her pet pug, Dr. Frank, who is what is called a "doctor dog." A doctor dog is a very friendly dog that PAWS takes to hospitals to cheer up children who are sick.

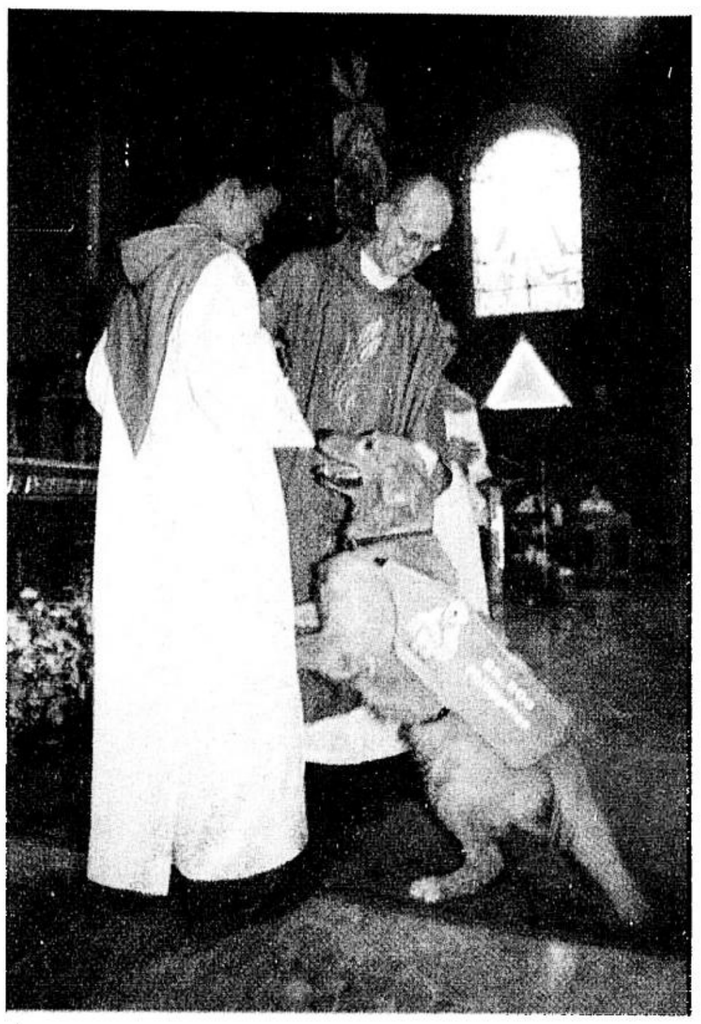
"A professor dog on the other hand," Cristina added, "is a dog we take to schools to teach children all about companionship and respect for animals."

Young Animals Welfare Advocate

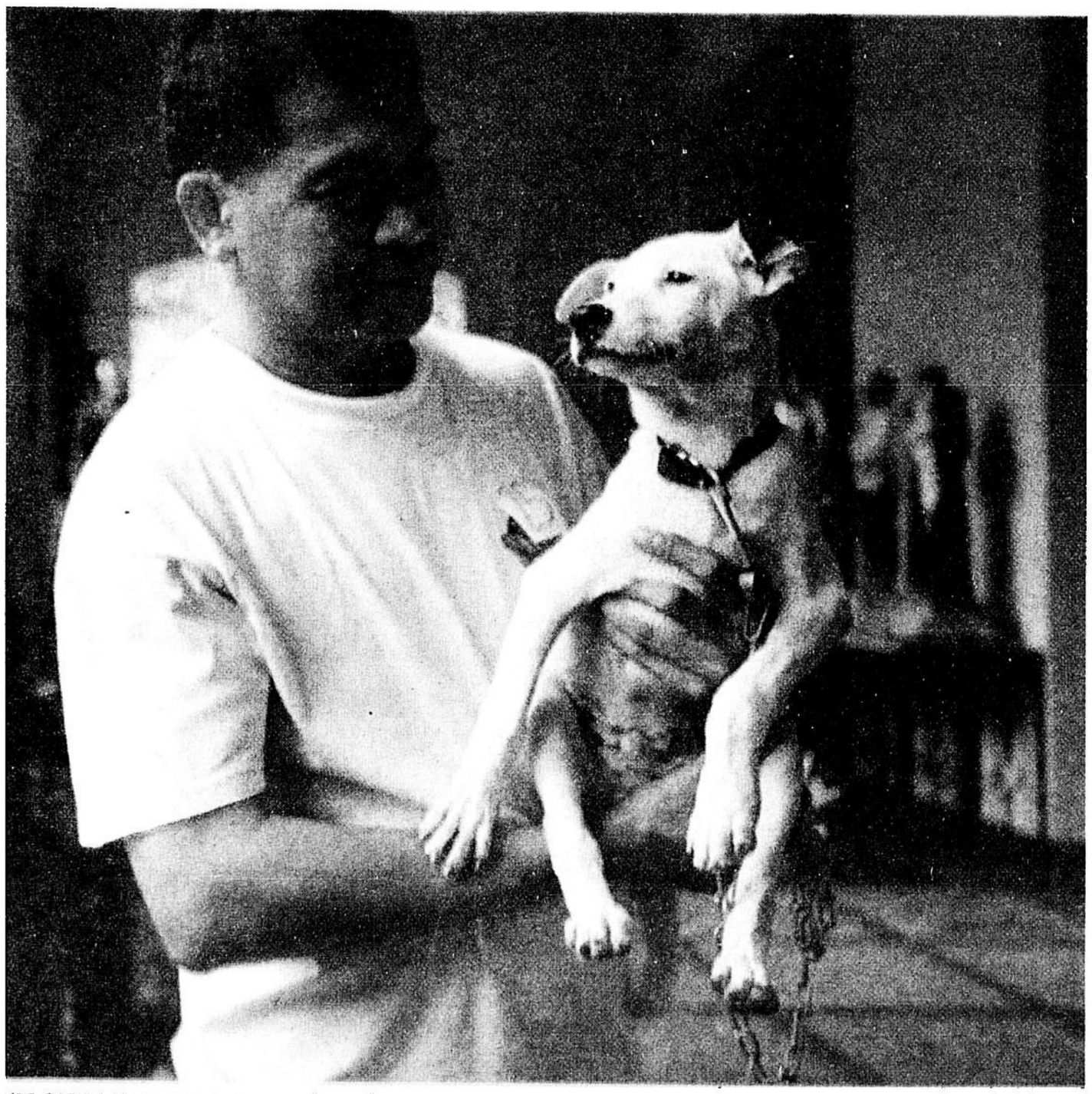
Kimberlyn Lei, 10, and the youngest member of PAWS, manned the registration booth with her mom, Lanna. Though shy, she told JI that she was there because she loves her pets and all animals.

Her mother though had a more grave message. "Ninety percent of all people violate the rights of animals without even knowing it," she said. That's why PAWS and other organizations promoting animals' rights still have a lot of work to do.

Furry/ p. 14

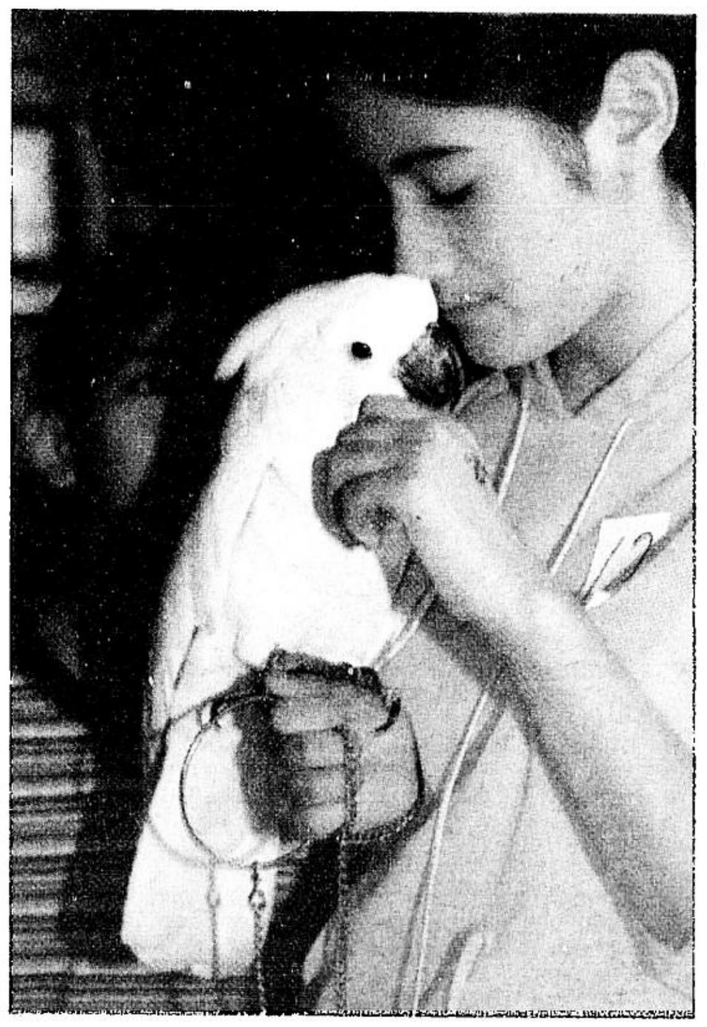


AWWW! Roo is blessed by Fr. Arnie Boehme during the very touching Holy Mass offering. All of 70 pounds, Roo is like a gentle giant who is very friendly to other dogs, and people as well.



"ASKAL" POWER! Pearly white mongrel, Rum, suddenly becomes camera-shy and turns to *Mang* Jercil for a hug. He looked rather sleepy while waiting in line for the blessing but is nice enough to let everyone pat and cuddle him.

Photos by CJ BUNOAN



IT'S YOGI, NOT HEDWIG. The bond between Yogi and 13-year-old Alexis Cortez is undeniable. Alexis brings her snowy white pet parrot to the animal blessing every year.

GMA &
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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PERFORMANCE· ANIME PHOTO
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DAEWOO
DAEWOO ELECTRONICS

FOR By KIDS

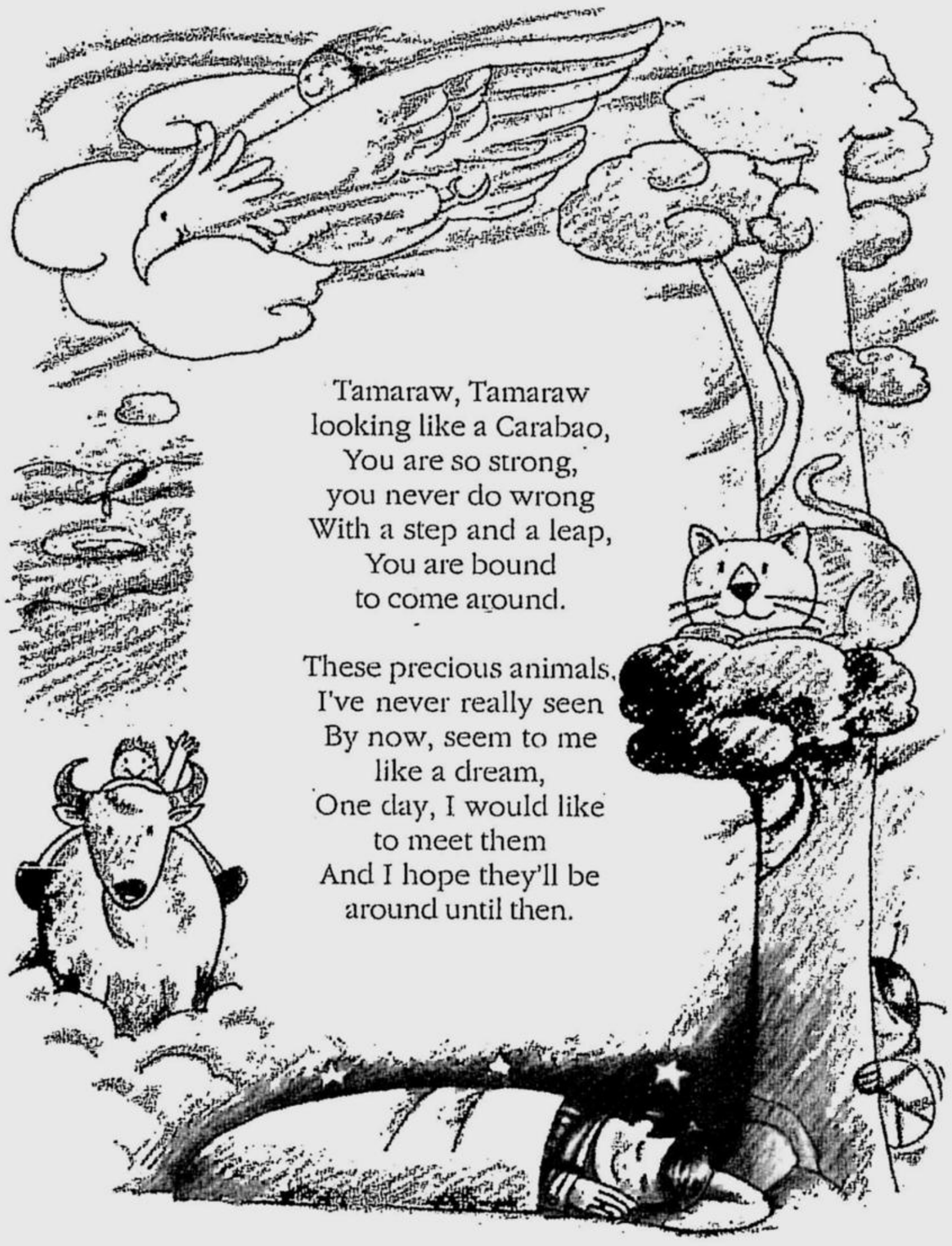
ART BY
MARC V. ZARA

Animals in My Dream

BY ENRICO JOSE CRUZ

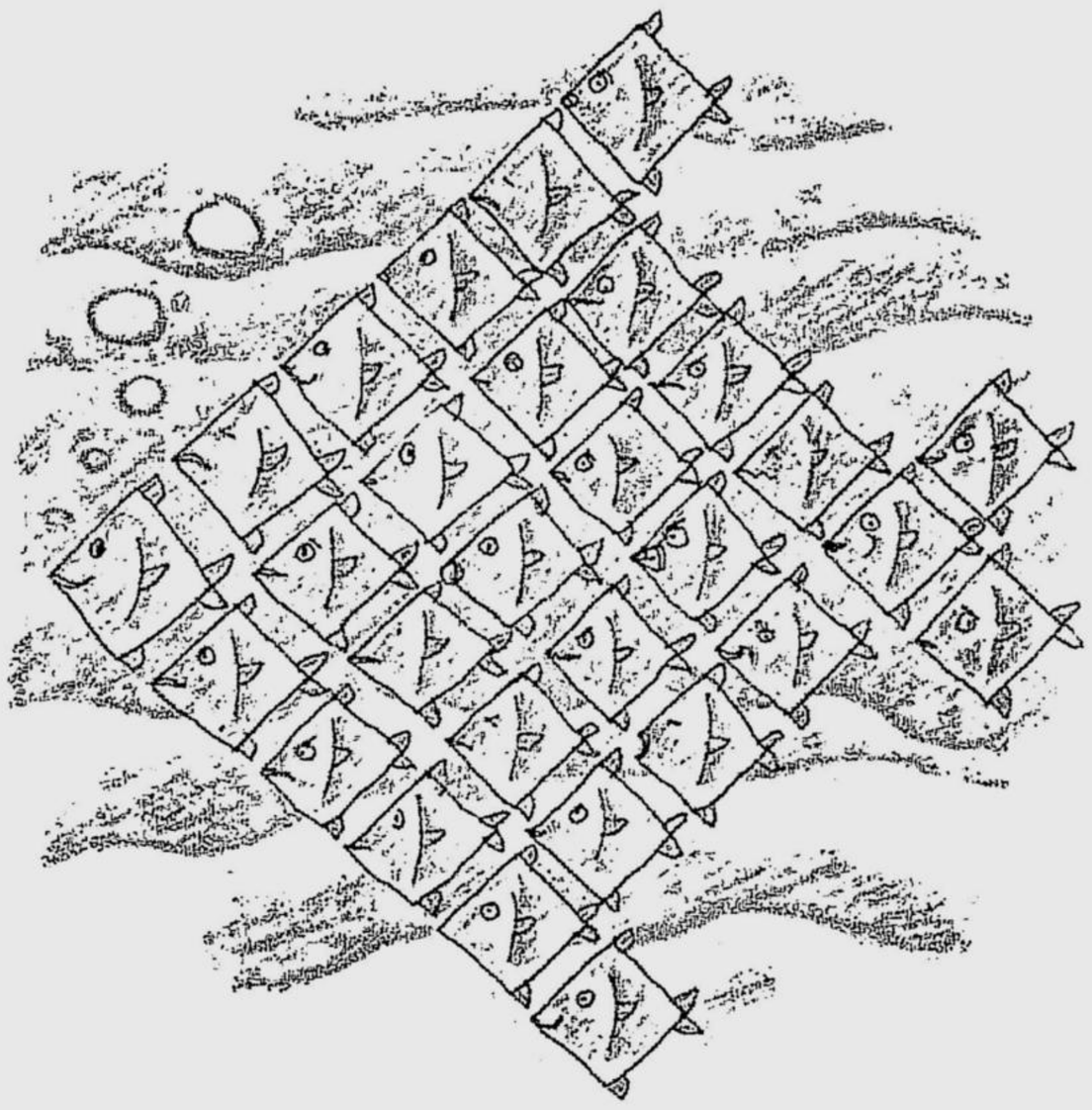
Bearcat, Bearcat perched on a tree
Are you thinking of me or a bumblebee?
You seem to be happy just cuddling on a branch
And waiting for your lunch!

Way up in the sky a Haribon flies,
With a swoosh and a swish,
Swooping down for a fish
What a wish for a dish!



Tamaraw, Tamaraw
looking like a Carabao,
You are so strong,
you never do wrong
With a step and a leap,
You are bound
to come around.

These precious animals,
I've never really seen
By now, seem to me
like a dream,
One day, I would like
to meet them
And I hope they'll be
around until then.



Fish

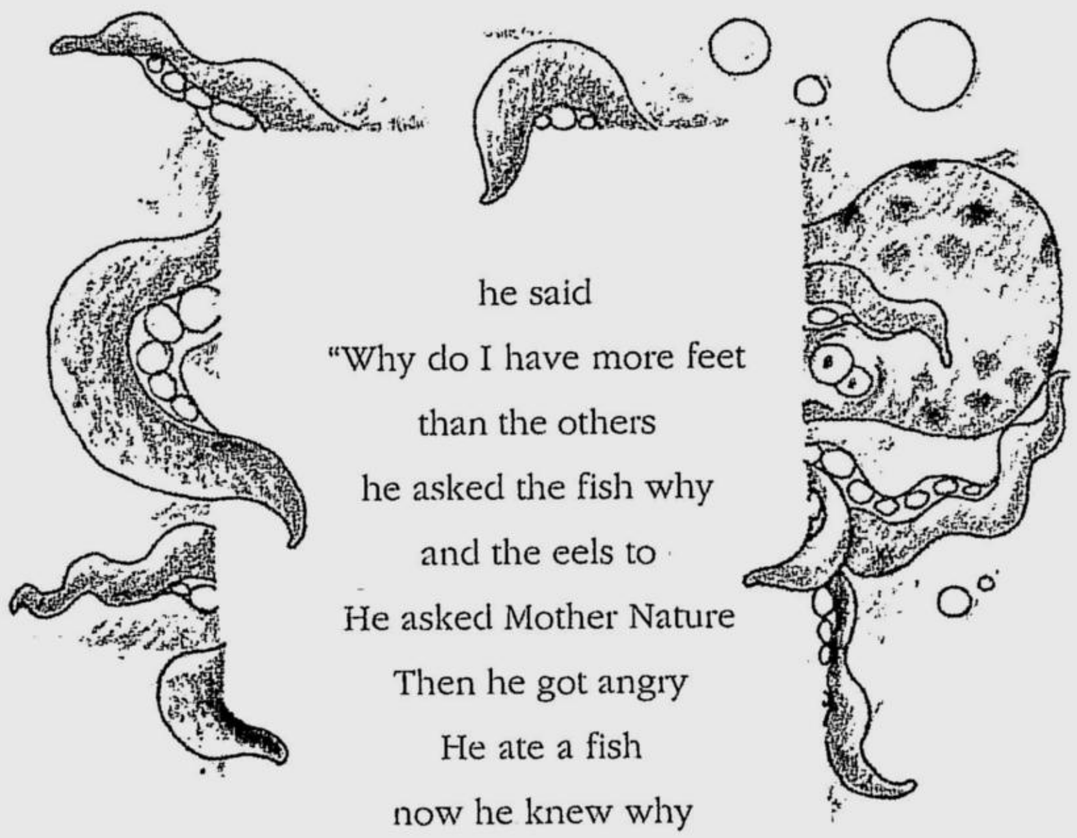
BY EMMANUEL CRUZ

Fish are water animals
They breathe water too
How amazing!
They swim fast or slow
They are very intelligent
The girl lays thousands of eggs
They are really amazing
Sometimes they fight
For territory they bite each other
hard and strong
They nibble
your hands when you dip them in water.

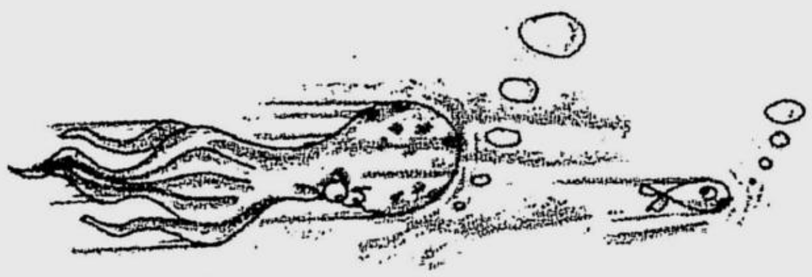
The Octopus and his eight feet

BY EMMANUEL CRUZ

Once upon a time
in the middle of the ocean
there was an octopus.
He was sad
because he had eight feet



he said
"Why do I have more feet
than the others
he asked the fish why
and the eels to
He asked Mother Nature
Then he got angry
He ate a fish
now he knew why
He needed it for
speed to catch
food now
He never complained again.



__EJ__, 11, studies at the Ateneo Grade School.
__Noel__, 8, studies at the Community of Learners.
__EJ__ and __Noel__ are brothers who both love animals.
__Marc__ is a practicing architect and a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.

Walang Pamagat

NI OMNI BELLE R. GRUBA
GUHIT NI ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Ako ay nalumbay
Simula nang ika'y
Nagpaalam
At di na bumalik.

Hindi ko alam kung
Gaano mo ako kamahal
Huli na nang aking malaman

Naaalala ko pa noong
Ika'y hindi mawala sa aking tabi
Sa gabing kay lamig
Ako'y nasa iyong kandungan

Salamat aking Tatay,
Sana'y mamayapa ka na
Sa langit.

***Omni Belle** is 13 years old. She wrote this poem for her mother who has never been enthusiastic about her birthday. Omni's mother was only 5 years old when her father Bernardo Ranchez—Omni's grandfather—died on her birthday. Omni lives in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.*

***Albert** is one of Inquirer's staff artists.*

Lola's Girl

Bea Briones, 4, is every grandmother's dream come true

BY MARGAUX ORTIZ

EVERY day, as soon as 4-year-old Beatrice Briones gets home from school, she scrambles to sit beside her *Lola* Emi. Then they would talk about her day at school. They'd chat about the fun things she did with her teacher and friends or what her favorite cartoon characters on television are up to. They talk just about anything under the sun.

"I take care of *Inay* (what she calls her *Lola* Emi) whenever my mommy and daddy are at the office," says the junior kinder student from San Felipe Neri Parochial School. Bea adds sadly that her 79-year-old grandmother can't walk anymore because of an operation. "So I try to make her laugh in the best way I can."

She loves *Lola* Emi so much that whenever she sees old people being maltreated on television shows, she would feel bad. "I cry whenever the bad people on TV would shout or scare the grandmothers. They remind me of *Inay*," Bea frowns.

Bea dreams of becoming a doctor someday. "I could take care of the sick," says Bea, her eyes lighting up. "I would give medicine to the sick and old people like *Inay* so they could feel better."

The 4-year-old has one wish for her 5th birthday on Oct. 12. She just wants her *lola* to get well. "Whenever I go to church, I pray hard to God that my *lola*'s legs get better," says Bea. "I really, really hope that she could walk again."

BEA takes good care of her *Lola* Emi.

ROGER CARPIO

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r' rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____

Vege-Man!

Eduardo Enriquez has devoted his life to teaching others about respect for animals and nature

BY LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO

EDUARDO Enriquez, 27, eats only vegetables. Why? Because he loves all animals, like his cats Diwata and Sly, and of course the animals that people usually eat. He prefers to be called an animal rights advocate—that is, an intercessor or defender: one who pleads the cause of another. That's why Mr. Enriquez hasn't eaten meat for more than nine years now.

Why he's not a vet

As a kid, he took care of dogs, cats, turtles, many kinds of fishes, insects, chickens, etc. His dream job was to be a zookeeper or a veterinarian.

But after entering the State University's pre-vet program, he gave up the latter dream when he realized that there was no way one could become a vet without dissecting animals. His view is that one must find other ways to learn to help animals. He thinks that to kill or injure animals in order to help them is quite ironic.

A writer now

A freelance writer, Eduardo devotes much of his work on music and animals. In his art and writing, he tries to educate people on animal rights and the environment, as well as any issue that deals with cruelty, particularly if the victims can't defend themselves. He continually writes of how animal issues should be seen as a human issue, and how these are directly linked to world hunger.

Don't be rude

Being a vegetarian, however, doesn't just start and stop in not eating meat or meat products. Eduardo keeps himself up-to-date with products, industries and establishments that mistreat animals (for instance, products from companies that conduct tests on animals, or using animal ingredients) so he doesn't buy them. Being informed is the key.

How does Eduardo urge others to get active? "As tactfully as possible," he says with a smile. He tries to live by the Golden Rule in every aspect of his life. By taking the feelings of others into consideration, he finds it easier to live with himself. Likewise, he doesn't want the suffering of animals on his conscience.

"But I only give information to those who show interest," he says. "Forcing my beliefs on other people would be rude."

***Lyra Abueg Garcellano** is a visual artist and is the creator of "The Adventures of Atomo and Weboy, the Buddha Bear." She also wants to be a vegetarian.*

HOME READING. Diwata, the cat, reads some titles while Ed shows off his favorite books. BETOY JOHNSON

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)_____;
2)_____;
3)_____;
4)_____;
and 5)_____.

My nominee lives at _____
_____
Give him/her a call at_____
_____
or send him/her an e-mail at
_____.
By the way, I'm_____
_____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is _____
_____.
You may call me at
_____.

TECH Kids: AN ART ENCOUNTER

BY STANLY GALO C. SY
JI CORRESPONDENT
XAVIER SCHOOL

HOW can cellular phones help us in the future? Young visual artists with high-tech ideas had to answer this on their illustration boards and cartolinas during the recent "Tech Kids: An Art Encounter" held late last month at the Ericsson Mobility World at the 6th floor of the Octagon Centre.

I was able to interview most of the young artists. Here are the "inventors" and their "inventions". . .

"I drew the 'Syglass." I want to invent this so that when I am wearing it, other people wouldn't know that I'm really wearing it. The special effects here are the 'Maping'—wherein you can see the whole place you're in; the 'Encyclopedia'—so that you'll kind of have a dictionary with you all the time; the 'Alarm'—wherein you'll know if there is something like a bad guy spying on you or bad weatehr coming. There are also games here. It's an Auto-Amusement wherein all the games that exist are here."

***—Brian Borbe**, 15, P. Villanueva School*

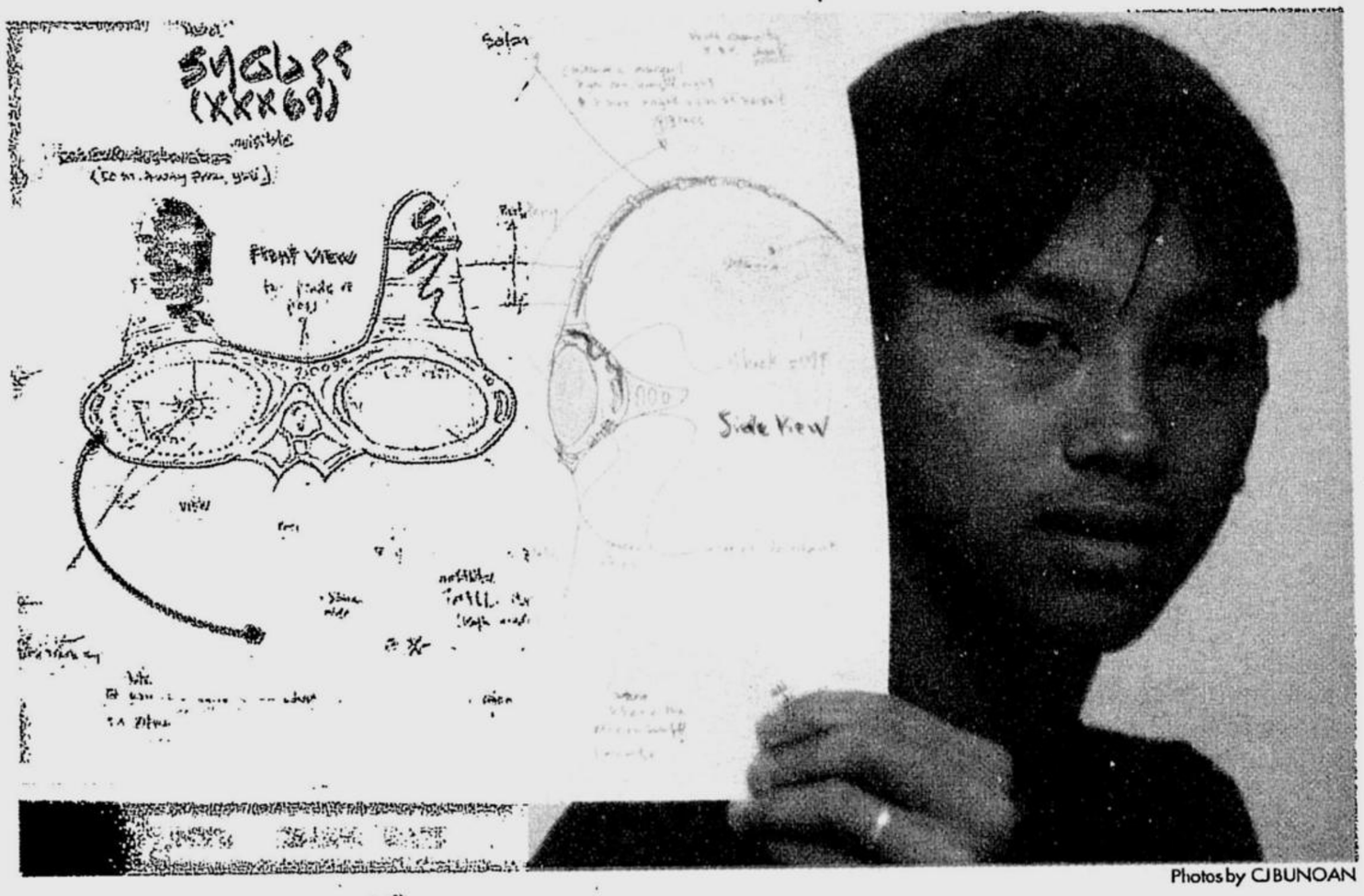
"I drew the 'Psycholophone.' I want to invent this for the welfare of other people. It can read the minds of every human."

***—Mark Leones**, 15, Pasay West High School*

"I drew the 'Small Cellphone.' I want to invent this so that if let's say someone's gonna get married, the bride can know if the groom really loves here or not. The good thing about this is that you only use little batteries."

***—Mark Anthony Marquez**, 15, Pasay West High School*

"I drew the 'Wristwatch.' It's a cellphone and a watch that can be used in the year 2010. The good thing about this is that if you lose this, no one can ever use this, because it only the one with the specific thumbmark registered."



Photos by CJ BUNOAN

SYGLASS. Brian Borbe, 15, shows off his concept. It's an invisible cellphone that fits even your head. It's solar-powered, has games and even an encyclopedia. It has maps too. He calls it syglass.

***—Cy Sycat**, 12, Toress High School*

"I drew the 'Hi-Tech Global Cellphone.' I want to invent this so that if the people get bored, they could watch TV or listen to the radio with this thing. This invention has two antennas. It uses solar power meaning it only works under sunlight or when there's daylight."

***—Jocyl P. Soriega**, 11, Jose Rizal Elementary School*

"'Hi-tech Watch with Cellphone' is the name of what I want to invent. I want to invent this because I want lots of stuff to be compiled together in one watch."

***—Angel O. Suan**, 14, Villanueva, Pasay Elementary School*

(This invention has no name yet.) "I want to invent this because most of my friends are girls and most of them want cellphones. It's nice because when it's turned off, it's a mirror and it has face powder and a drawer where you can put your make-up."

***—Stephanie Co**, 11*

CY SICAT says cellphones should have a thumbprint security code. That way, robbers won't be able to use or sell your phone.

So that's it once again. I have to go! See you next time on the same magazine.

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

Time Traveling, Part II

HELLO! This jet-setter cockroach is ready for more time-traveling through the Batang Historyador Series*! After the pre-Spanish period and the Spanish occupation, my next stop is the American Occupation.

"Si Juanito, noong panahon ng mga Amerikano" features a 12-year-old boy who works at a sugarcane farm in Negros. One day, an American comes to recruit all the farmers and takes them to another plantation in Hawaii. Juanito and his father go, leaving the rest of their family behind. When they get to Hawaii, they find life hard, especially because the plantation supervisor, Mr. Jones, whips all the farmers and does not allow them to take their *siesta*. The children find no time to play.

Sob! It's not a very happy story. Jomike Tejido's clay artwork, with the reds and blues and browns, reminds me of the soil the farmers work with, and the heavy darkness that I feel as I witness Juanito's story. I see the Filipino's brown skin, burned by the sun, as opposed to his American white-skinned master. It is good, at the least, to see Juanito brave and strong, enduring the hardship, and learning to love his country even if he is in another. I only hope, before I leave for my next stop, that Juanito will make lots of friends, not only among the Filipinos, but among the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and yes, American farmers.

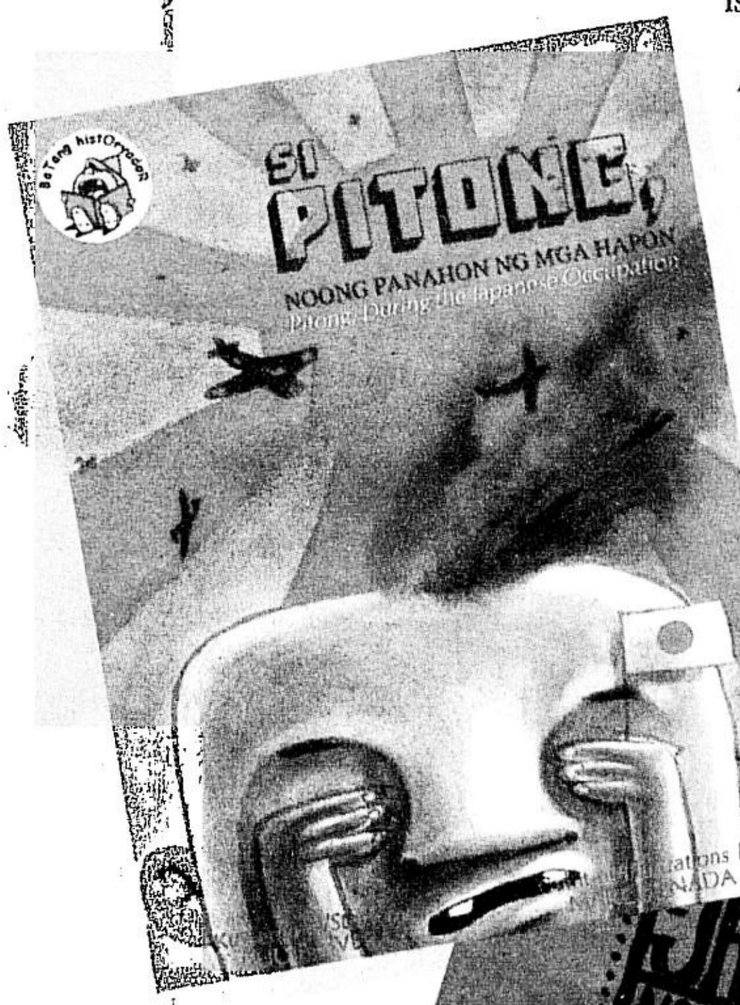
"Si Pitong, noong panahon ng mga Hapon" takes place in Luzon, but the little boy Pitong has to keep moving with his family from Tarlac to Manila to Malabon and back to Manila again.

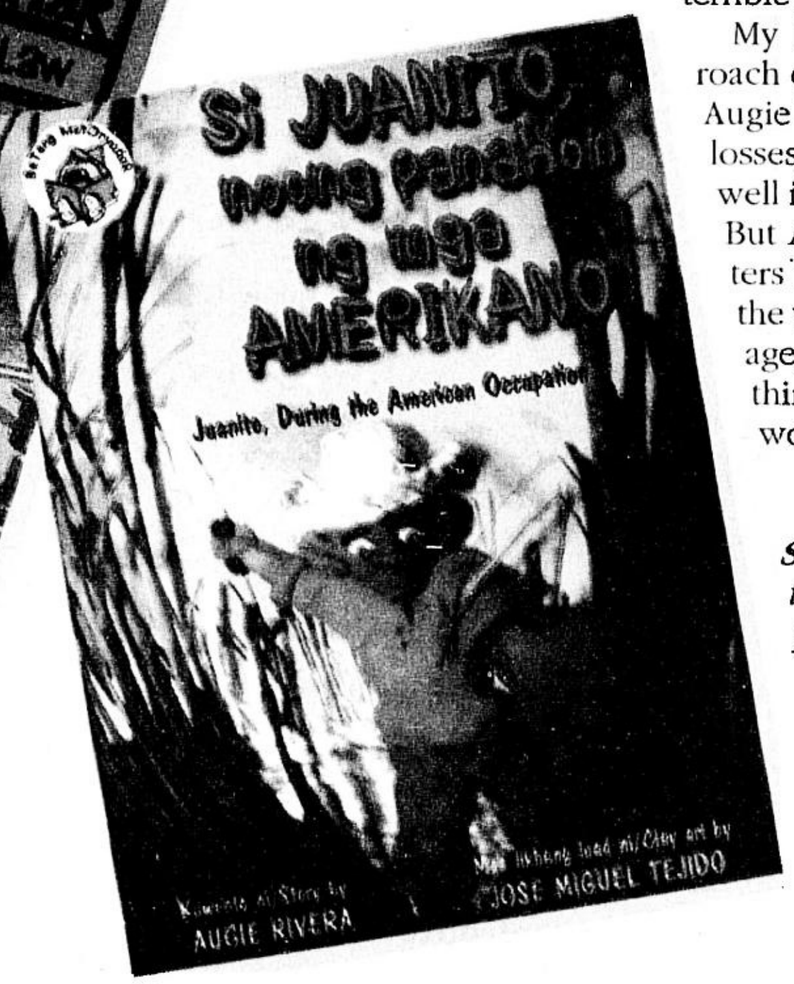
Marćus Nada illustrates Pitong as a very spunky fellow who seems to enjoy himself even at such an unstable time. He goes fishing, he goes to market, he goes to a school run by the Japanese. Pitong doesn't always have fun, though, and suffers through being whacked on the head and fearing for his father's life. Oh he is such a little, funny and lovable boy! Before I wave goodbye and fly to my next stop, I wish that Pitong will remain the same no matter what other nasty things happen to him.

Finally, there's **"Jhun-Jhun, noong bago ideklara ang Batas Militar."** Talk about unstable times! When Jhun-Jhun wonders why he never has fun with his *kuya* anymore, he decides to follow his *kuya* like a spy. He ends up in a rally against Marcos and dictatorship.

There are some pretty scary things that happen to him then–he sees a lot of soldiers, hears gun shots, gets wet from a strong spray of water, and loses sight of his *kuya*. One illustration by Brian Vallesteros shows a haunting scene of Jhun-Jhun among slippers that belong to the protesters that have dispersed. I feel sad and terrible and I want to go home.

My last stop is today. My cockroach eyes are filled with tears from Augie Rivera's stories of hard times, losses, and hope. It's not like all is well in the world at present, either. But Augie Rivera's young characters remind us that even through the worst hardships, there is courage, strength, and hope. It's worth thinking about through all the world's messes.





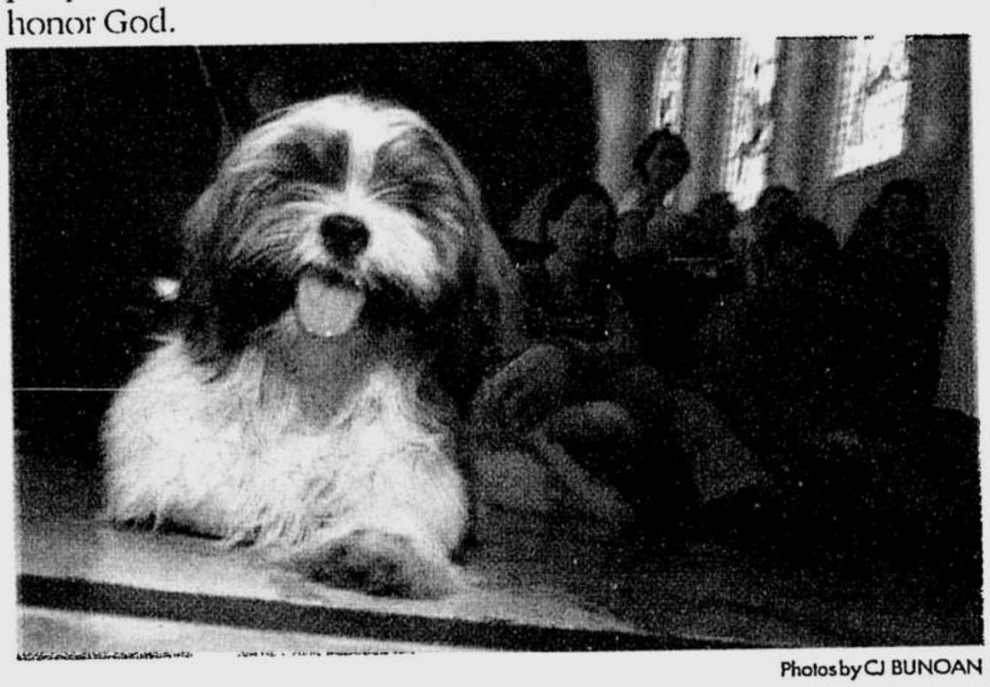
"The Batang Historyador Series" *feature children from the different periods in Philippine history: Pre-Spanish, Spanish Occupation, American Occupation, Japanese Occupation, and pre-Martial Law. These books are sponsored by Unicef and are available at our local bookstores.*

Furry, Feathered. ...(From page 6)

The Golden Rule

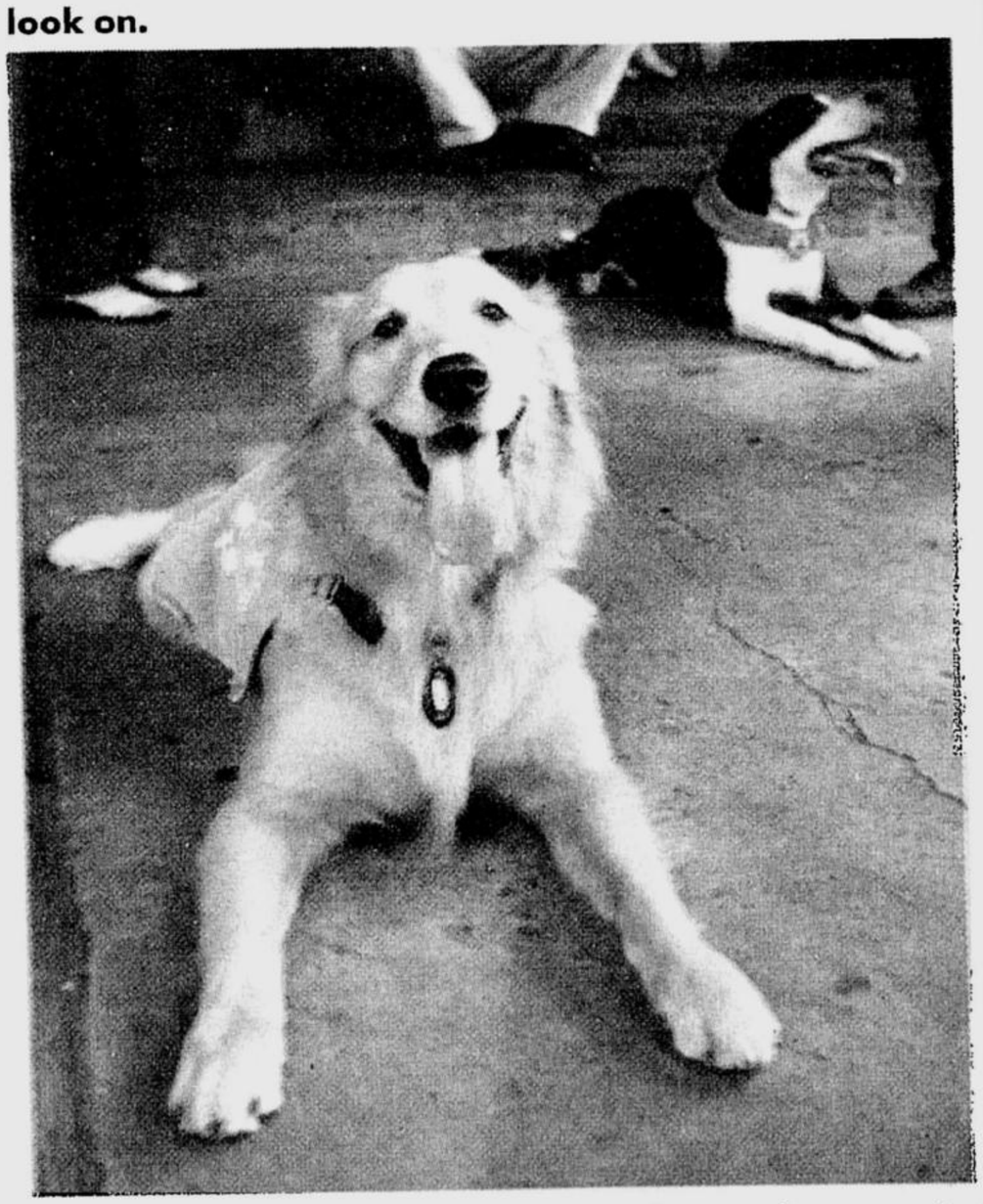
Mt. Carmel Parish Priest Fr. Jun Agruda, OCD, said it's very important for Filipinos to learn to respect animals.

"Sometimes, the way you treat animals is a window to how you treat other people and the environment," he said. Through this yearly World Animal Day Mass, he hopes more and more people will honor their pets, nature and by doing this will also honor God.

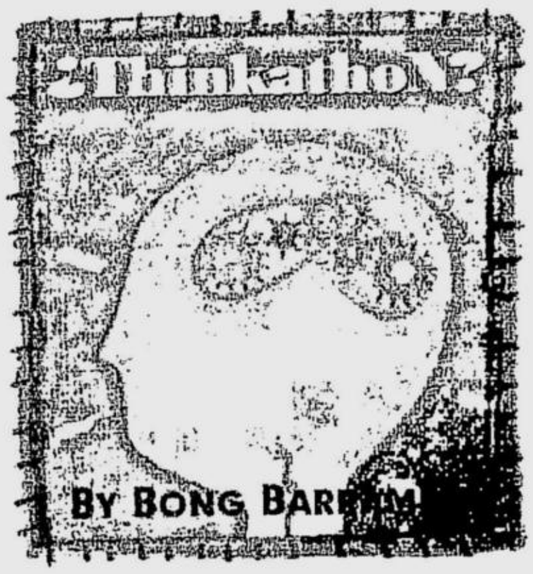


Photos by CJ BUNOAN

SHE'S ALL THAT! Steffie, a 6-month-old shitzu smiles at the camera as her "parents" Romy and Bing de Jesus look on.



DR. DOG IS IN. Roo, a 4-year-old Golden Retriever, waits for his owner, Alan Geronilla at the entrance of Mt. Carmel Church. Roo helps a lot of sick children by visiting them in hospitals as PAWS's doctor dog.



Invent-ory

LISTED on the left column are inventions (and the years they were created) that make our everyday lives easier. Can you match each with its inventor on the right column?

___ 1. **electric battery** (1800)	A. **Thomas A. Edison** (US)
___ 2. **friction match** (1827)	B. **Thomas Fisher** (US)
___ 3. **refrigeration** (1834)	C. **Elias Howe** (US)
___ 4. **sewing machine** (1846)	D. **Pierre Verdon** (France)
___ 5. **cylinder door lock** (1851)	E. **Linus Yale** (US)
___ 6. **electric light blub** (1879)	F. **John Walker** (England)
___ 7. **dishwasher** (1886)	G. **Willis H. Carrier** (US)
___ 8. **zipper** (1801)	H. **Alessandro Volta** (Italy)
___ 9. **washing machine** (1901)	I. **Percy Spenser** (US)
___ 10. **vacuum cleaner** (1907)	J. **Jacob Perkins** (England)
___ 11. **air conditioning** (1911)	K. **Josephine Cochran** (US)
___ 12. **Teflon** (1938)	L. **Georges de Mestral** (Switz)
___ 13. **microwave oven** (1947)	M. **Roy Plunkett** (US)
___ 14. **Velcro** (1948)	N. **J. Murray Spangler** (US)
___ 15 **food processor** (1971)	O. **Whitcomb Judson** (US)

Answers :

1. H
2. F
3. J
4. C
5. E
6. A
7. K
8. O
9. B
10. N
11. G
12. M
13. I
14. L
15. D

Ratings :

13 - 15

10 - 12

7 - 9

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

NOY GOES ROUND THE WORLD

The first part of my trip takes me to Paris, the capital city of this country. Here's a photo of me at one of its most famous structures, the Eiffel Tower. Built in 1889, many people actually tried to stop its construction thinking it was ugly! But now, this 300-meter steel tower is one of the world's most recognized landmarks!

WHAT COUNTRY IS NOY IN?

Write down all 5 countries he visits, then send your complete list to The Lunch Box, c/o the Junior Inquirer. List ALL 5 COUNTRIES correctly and WIN A PRIZE!

LET'S GO FLY A KITE!

Kites were invented almost three thousand years ago in which country?

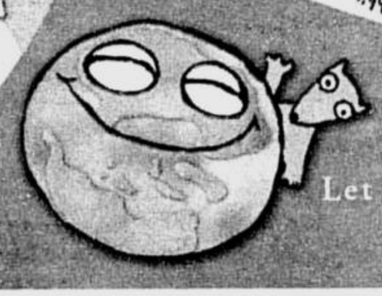
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ China
- ☐ India

answer: China

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

look for 5 differences in these 2 halloween photos

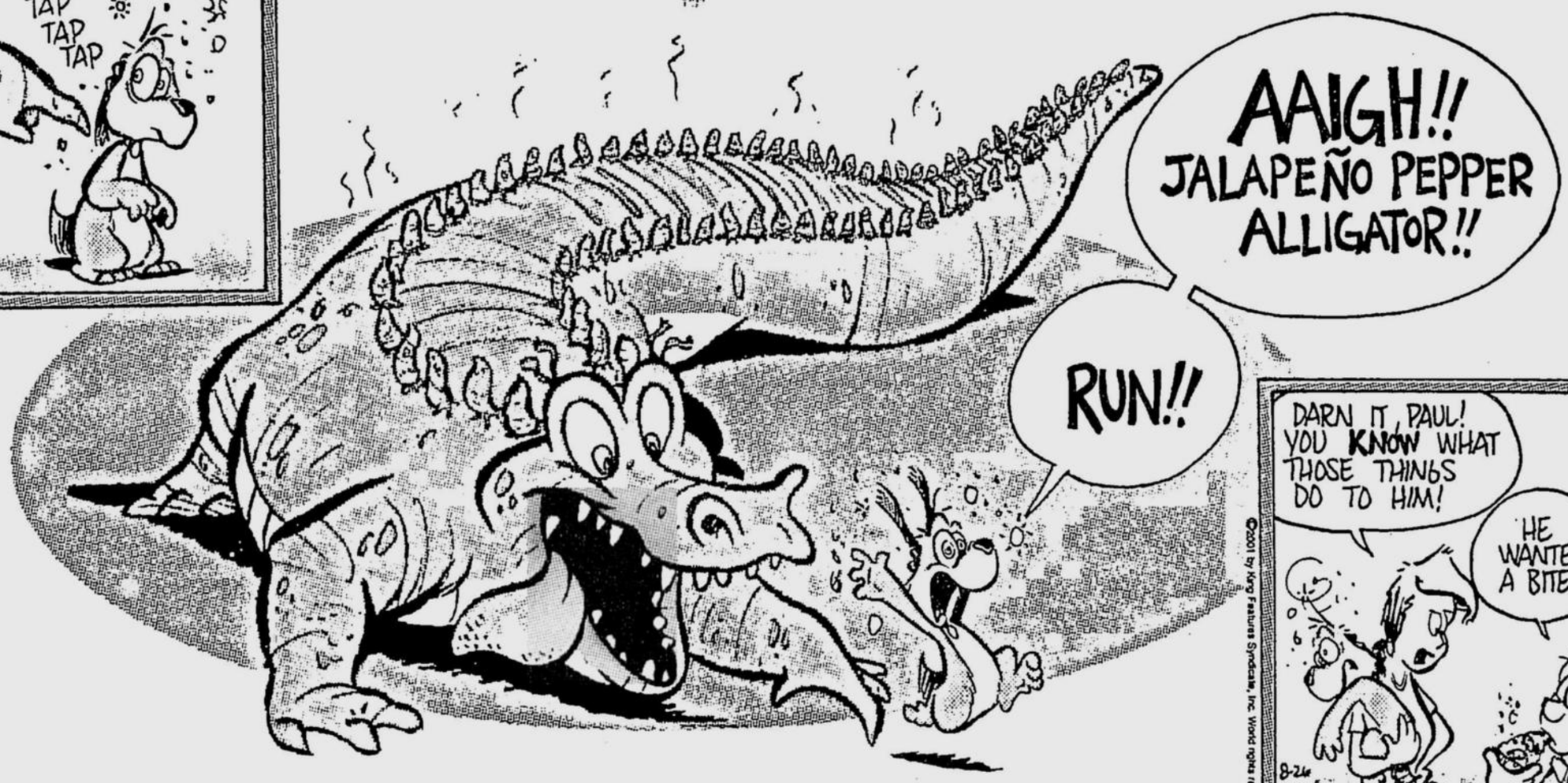
Answers: "H", wizard's stot, crown, wand, robbit ear



Let peace begin with you!

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



Out There (from page 3)

Museum Moments

STORYTELLING. Listen to Ms Delia Mandap, a Reading teacher at La Salle Greenhills, as she reads to you wonderful and fantastic stories at Museo Pambata on Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. For inquiries call up Museo at 523-1797 to 98 or visit them at Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila.

MUSIKAHAN. In celebration of Children's Month, the St. Scholastica's Predis Twinkle group and Children's Orchestra perform beautiful, inspiring music for all the young visitors of Museo Pambata.

Workshop

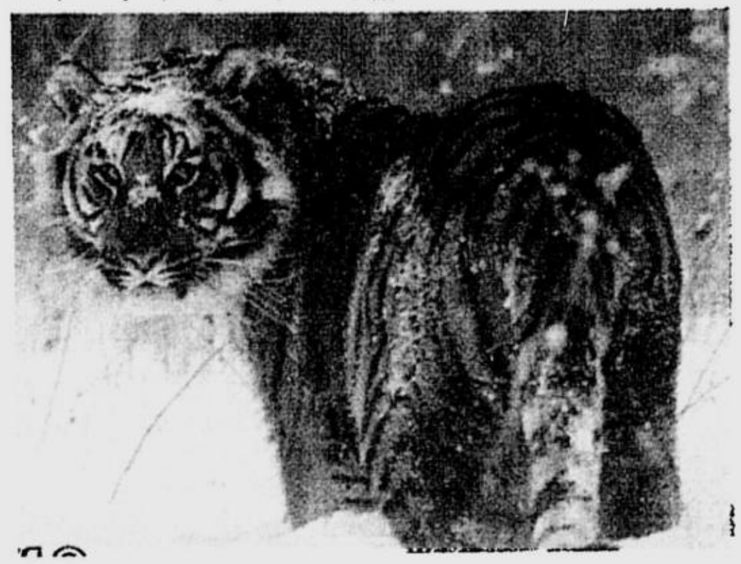
TEST REVIEWS. If you're a graduating grade school student and want to make it to the school of your choice, then you should review now! MSA Tutorial and Review Center conducts classes for high school entrance test this month. Subjects include Mathematics, English, Science and Abstract Reasoning. Check out the nearest MSA Review Centers: Prince David Condominium, Katipunan; Golden Crescent Mansion, Loyola Heights, Quezon City; Vista Verde Executive Village, Cainta; Filinvest Homes East, Antipolo; at MSA Academic Advancement Institute, 315 Katipunan Road, QC. For inquiries call up 435-6062.

Play

FLORANTE AT LAURA. Watch the immortal love story of Francisco Balagtas at the Gantimpala Theater's staging of "Florante at Laura." Check out the show's schedules: today at RFC Theater/Cinema, Las Piñas; and at the JCS Auditorium, Oct. 26-28, Pedro Gil Street, Manila. Directed by Jake de Asis, Rene Villanueva's adaptation stars Jojit Lorenzo and Arkin Da Silva as Florante and Adriana Agacaoili as Laura. For ticket reservations call up 899-5754, 897-1533.

Cable Picks

TIGERS ON NGC. Learn more tiger facts on National Geographic's "Tiger Weekend." Watch the best NGC documentaries on tigers, with short interviews, and public awareness



CHECK OUT the tiger documentaries on National Geographic Channel.

message. That's tonight and tomorrow at 7 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.

EDEN PROJECT. See how the largest plant conservatory was made possible by retired songwriter and producer Tim Smit on NGC's "Human Edge." Eden Project is considered the eighth wonder of the world as botanists gain new insights into plant life through this project. "Human Edge" airs on Oct. 26.

Bush to Apec: Join fight to save civilized world

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

OCTOBER 21, 2001 ★ 72 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 315 P15

SHANGHAI—US President George W. Bush implored Asian leaders belonging to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to join his campaign against terrorism, saying, "this conflict is a fight to save the civilized world."

He aired his plea as he mourned two American soldiers who died while supporting a commando raid on Afghanistan, the first deployment of ground troops since the US-led air strikes started on Oct. 7. *(See banner story.)*

"In our world, there is no isolation from evil," Bush said in a speech at the opening Saturday of the Apec summit, the centerpiece address of his brief Asian trip.

BUSH/ A16

ALL in the family for the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation who pose for the traditional souvenir photo in Shanghai on Saturday. From left: Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Chilean President Ricardo Lagos Escobar, Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Mexican President Vicente Fox, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Mekere Morauta, Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, US President George W. Bush and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai. REUTERS

US troops hit Taliban lair

2 American servicemen killed in helicopter crash in Pakistan

PRAYERS at sunset in a time of war and want in a village in Afghanistan among the ruins of a mosque. GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON—US commandos launched a hit-and-run raid deep inside Afghanistan overnight, fighting the first ground battle of a critical new phase of the American war on terrorism, defense sources said Saturday.

The Pentagon on Friday confirmed widespread reports that US special forces had been inside Afghanistan for some time conducting scouting missions, liaising with the anti-Taliban opposition and coordinating air strikes.

But the raid on the Taliban stronghold Kandahar marked the first time ground troops had been sent into battle in the two-week long campaign to punish the Afghan regime for shielding terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden.

More than 100 soldiers from the Army Rangers, a crack light infantry outfit carried by helicopters, attacked a Taliban air base outside Kandahar, the militia's main stronghold in southern Afghanistan, the sources said.

An Afghan refugee arriving in Pakistan, Noor Mohammed, said the raid occurred at the Taliban garrison Qila Jadeed about 30 kilometers northwest of Kandahar. He said 25 Taliban fighters were killed. The

US/ A17

Many faiths, one language of the heart

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

"NO ONE of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself," reads the framed message.

Sounds familiar? It is the Islamic version of the Golden Rule.

The message, which has its versions in Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Baha'i Saith, is a curiosity at the entrance of a small office room in Greenhills, San Juan.

But the room is anything but "office-like." It has the serene, even cavernous, atmosphere of a Hindu or Buddhist temple and the hush of a cathedral.

And it is the home of people of different religions and spiritual expressions, belonging to a group called the Peacemakers Circle Foundation Inc.

For over a year now, the group has been taking on an enormous task to bridge inter-religious differences, particularly that between Muslims and Christians.

Marites G. Africa, 43, founder of the circle, put up the Golden Rule right by the entrance to the room to remind members and visitors that "religion should unite and not at all divide."

"We experience the same God," she

MANY/ A17

Last Chinese hostage freed, thanks to 'Islamic persuasion'

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Moro bandits have freed their last remaining Chinese hostage after the Moro Islamic Liberation Front applied "Islamic persuasion" on the kidnap gang.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu yesterday said the Pentagon gang handed over Chinese engineer Zhang Zhongyi to four MILF emissaries in Rajamuda, Pikit, Cotabato, on Friday night.

Kabalu said the MILF emissaries then turned over Zhang to Libyan Ambassador Salem Adem and Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema.

"This is an Islamic persuasion and a humanitarian effort on the part of the MILF to resolve this problem on the request of the Malaysian and Libyan governments," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is in Shanghai attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, thanked the MILF, Libyan ambassador and government peace negotiators for securing Zhang's release. *(See story on this page)*

Looking tired and haggard, Zhang was airlifted to Manila on Saturday morning and was presented to the media in Malacañang later in the afternoon. The once clean-shaven engineer had grown a beard during his 48-day captivity.

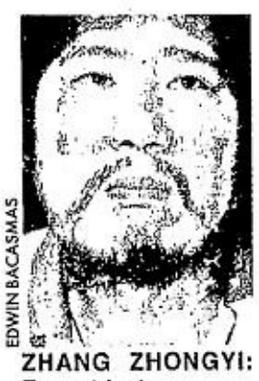
Speaking through an interpreter, Zhang said he was "very thankful for the Philippine government and Chinese government for my safe return but I'm also saddened by the loss of my elder brother."

The Pentagon gang seized Zhang, two Chinese co-workers and a Filipino guide on Aug. 12 while they were delivering a P5-million ransom to free his kidnapped brother, Zhang Zhongqiang.

Zhang's brother was abducted in June while he was on his way to an irrigation project in Central Mindanao.

Zhang Zhongqiang and Xue Xing were later killed when they tried to escape during a mili-

LAST/ A17



EDWIN BACASMAS

ZHANG ZHONGYI: Free at last.

GMA stands tall among Apec leaders

"THE POWER and the Promise:" President Macapagal lives up to the title of speech before business leaders at the Apec summit. AP

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

SHANGHAI (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo is standing tall among Pacific Rim leaders gathered in this city following the release Friday night in Cotabato of a kidnapped Chinese engineer.

In an impromptu press briefing Saturday at the Hua Ting hotel, the President said the release of Zhang Zhongyi could not have come at a better time given the ongoing leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in this city and her state visit to China scheduled on Oct. 29-31.

She said she was "pleased" that Zhang's release took place just as she was to take part "in discussions on the future of the new world economic order amidst the threat of terrorism and global instabilities." But she also expressed "much sadness" for Zhang's two companions—his brother and another engineer—who were killed earlier.

"Undeniably, Zhang's release is important to our cordial and warm relations with China," the President said.

She said, "negotiations leading to the release . . . were part of our earnest commitment" that she conveyed in a letter last month to Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

"At the same time, I assured President Jiang that our government would provide firm security measures to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals who are involved in our infrastructure projects," she said.

The President thanked Libyan Ambassador Salem Adam, her adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita, leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, and all the field units of the Philippine military and police in the area, for Zhang's release.

She also cited the efforts of former Mayor Ibrahim Paglas and Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

China had earlier approached Libya and Malaysia to intercede with the MILF to obtain the release of Zhang, who had been working on an

GMA/ A16

Is Nene wronging honorable men?

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

MIGHT not Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, in the words of Marc Anthony, be "wronging honorable men?"

The minority floor leader wants the senators to stop calling each other honorable during plenary sessions and public hearings. He has also filed a bill that would ban the senators' use of the courtesy car plates bearing No.7.

IS NENE/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

US experts start making rounds

TWENTY-SIX anti-terrorism experts from the United States will be making the rounds of the Armed Forces headquarters, the Southern Command and Basilan where the military has been battling Abu Sayyaf bandits in the next two weeks, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

But while the US experts, who arrived last Friday, are here to explore ways in which to help the Philippines put an end to Abu Sayyaf depredations, Reyes said they would not be joining the military operations against the kidnap group.

"They're not coming here to shoot anybody (or) to give us equipment," Reyes told reporters in Malacañang yesterday.

He described the visit in terms of an exploratory dialogue in which the US experts would find out how the US can help the Philippine military, and share intelligence information, strategies and tactics on dealing with terrorism around the world.

In Baguio City, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the presence of the US military advisers could translate into "some hardware items" to reinforce the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and solve the country's peace and order problems.

Exactly what those items might be was spelled out by US Embassy officials attending yesterday's 57th commemoration of the Allied Forces' landing on Leyte Gulf in Palo, Leyte in 1944.

The officials said the US would be sending to the Philippines before the end of the month some aircraft, guns and other military equipment to help the military quash terrorism in the country.

"We have a C-130 (airplane) arriving. It will carry M-16 rifles, grenade launchers and other military equipment," Robert Fitts, US Embassy chargé d'affaires, told reporters in Palo.

Col. Russel Lewey, the US defense attaché, said a C-130 military airplane and five VH-1 helicopters would be arriving this week.

Fisk said the US was leaving it up to the Philippine government how it intended to use the equipment against the Abu Sayyaf.

He hinted that some US military personnel would be on board the aircraft and that they would help train Filipino soldiers in anti-terrorism tactics.

But he clarified that these US servicemen were "not advisers but consultants" for the training of Filipino soldiers.

Fitts admitted that the US has been training some of the Filipino forces engaged in anti-terrorism work. He revealed that in the past three or four months, the US has been conducting a special training program somewhere in Baguio City to help the Philippine military cope with hostage situations.

The US "has a firm commitment to work with the Philippine government and we will continue to train Philippine forces to help them react to this kind of situation," he said.

Aside from the special training given to Philippine military personnel and the donation of military hardware, the US has also increased this year its financial military aid to the Philippines.

Fisk said US financial military aid to the Philippines has reached $19 million, a "rapid increase" compared to last year's $2.5 million.

Golez, who spoke at a reunion of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1970, said the 26 US military advisers were in the country to, among other things, "grade the performance" of a special Filipino commando team that the US had trained for the fight against terrorism.

He said the group, the Light Reaction Company, was "very well-trained and among the best in the world right now."

"(The US advisers) are here for an immediate critique or assessment of how the Light Reaction Company has been performing," he said.

Golez also said that the presence of US military advisers in the country could just possibly serve as a reminder to government officials regarding adjustments needed to be made in the 2002 budget in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US.

The House of Representatives is wrapping up budgetary hearings on the proposed budget bill.

"The proposed budget for 2002 did not consider Sept. 11 (which) changed a lot of things, not only in the Philippines but worldwide. It meant having to secure a lot of vital installations," he said.

Golez said the government had to secure 161 facilities in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. *Reports from Ven S. Labro and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau, Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Dona Pazzibugan, Metro Manila*

Experts came with hardware

BY N. BORDADORA

TWO ranking officers, some 30 servicemen and a slew of possible high-technology equipment that required a truck to transport to the United States military quarters here—this could be an indication of exactly what form of assistance the Philippines would be getting from the US in its fight against homegrown terrorists.

The US contingent, led by Colonels David Fridovich and John Christian, were all wearing civilian clothes when their C-130 plane landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Friday night.

The equipment they had brought were contained in large boxes and bags which appeared to be heavy as cargo personnel transferred them to a waiting truck.

Not one of the arriving US soldiers was willing to answer reporters' questions about their mission here, or where they came from and what their next destination would be. They were whisked away from the presence of the prying media by US Embassy officials and the police.

The US soldiers were reportedly brought to the former Joint US Military Assistance Group compound in Quezon City.

The US Embassy has yet to issue a statement regarding the arrival of the small US contingent last Friday. It has yet to confirm whether the group is part of a team of military advisers that is supposed to assist the Armed Forces in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

Sources in both Camp Aguinaldo and the Naia said the contingent was made up of US Special Forces. They are said to be here to evaluate the domestic terrorist situation and determine what type of equipment and training would best suit the Philippine military in its fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

Another source said that while they are scheduled to stay in the country for only seven days, the group could extend its stay upon the request of the Philippine government.

It is said the US soldiers would be going to Mindanao to experience the situation in the field first hand.

Speculations about the presence here of the US military officers and their party have run high after Armed Forces Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva confirmed that 22 US military advisers would be arriving to help train the Philippine military in fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

Fridovich's and Christian's arrival leaked out after the US Embassy requested assistance from security authorities at the Naia.

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Kidnapped priest seen in Lanao

By H. DELA CRUZ AND A. NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAGADIAN CITY—Kidnapped priest Fr. Giuseppe Piarantoni and his captors have been sighted in the coastal towns of Lanao del Sur, according to reports reaching the military yesterday.

At the same time, Bishop Zacarias Jimenez confirmed having received a similar report from a ranking civilian official of Lanao del Sur.

The prelate said Rep. Mamintal Adiong told him that Piarantoni, known as Fr. Beppe, was spotted by residents of Lanao del Sur as he was being moved by his abductors.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, chief of Task Force Giuseppe, said the military was still verifying the report.

Even as the military was checking the sightings, Jimenez said he has enlisted the help of Bishop Fernando Capalla and former Lanao del Sur Gov. Mahid Mutilan in negotiating for the release of Fr. Beppe.

Jimenez denied, however, that the kidnappers had contacted the clergy.

So far, he said, there were no significant developments yet.

Supt. Samson Ubay-Ubay, acting police chief of Zamboanga del Sur, said authorities would be filing kidnapping charges on Monday against leaders of the Pentagon gang, which is believed to be behind the abduction of Piarantoni.

Among those to be charged are Faizal Marohombsar, Norhan Amil alias Commander Ramsey, a certain Mansa Maulana of Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur, and several accomplices identified only as John Does.

Ubay-Ubay said police have several witnesses who would testify against the suspects.

Ramsey has denied involvement in the priest's abduction, saying he was in Cebu when the incident took place.

He pointed to the Abu Sayyaf when asked who he believed was behind the abduction.

Marohombsar, in an interview with the Catholic-run Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. in Cotabato City, also denied being behind the abduction of Fr. Beppe.

"*Wala nga akong alam na may kinidnap na pari* (I did not even know a priest had been kidnapped)," he said.

Marohombsar said he was with the group holding Zhang Zhongyi, the Chinese national snatched in Maguindanao in August, so it was not possible for him to be in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, where Piarantoni was seized.

Witnesses said a mestizo-looking man was among those who took Fr. Beppe.

The military said Marohombsar fit that description. *With a report from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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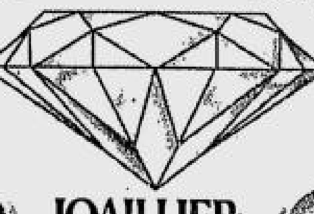

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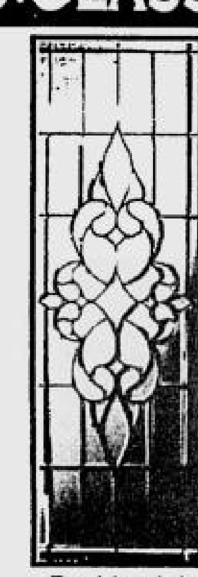
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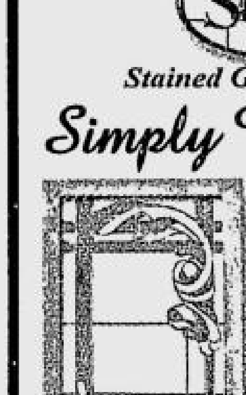

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No evidence vs Mike A–Pimentel

7th National Correctional Consciousness Week

"Ang pagbabago ng kalooban . . . tunay na kalayaan."

The stigma of imprisonment remains an obstacle to the total rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts into society. The National Correction Consciousness Week (NCCW), which is held every year pursuant to Executive Order No. 230 and Proclamation No. 551 both series of 1995, seeks to tear down this wall ofprejudice and apathy towards convicted felons.

Now on its seventh year, the NCCW will be celebrated nationwide from Oct. 21 to 27, 2001. Several activities have been lined up to rekindle the public's awareness of the public's awareness of the plight of those who are languishing in our prisons and jails. The celebrations will be led by the Bureau of Corrections, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, the Bureau of Youth and Child Welfare, the Board of Pardons and Parole, the Parole, and Probation Administration and non-governmental organizations, among them, the Episcopal Commission on Prisoner's Welfare, Prison Fellowship, Phil. and the Adhikain Para sa Karapatang Pambata.

MESSAGE

21 October 2001

The National Correctional Consciousness Week is a yearly reminder that you can help the Government shape convicted felons into productive and law abiding citizens. You can do so by joining any of the civic organizations that help inmates improve their attitudes towards themselves and society as a whole. You can inspect our prisons and jails and spur your national leaders to reform or improve them. You can volunteer to guide a felon released on probation back to a normal life. Or you can simply visit an inmate and offer him friendship and hope.

Your involvement in corrections can make a big difference in the Government's efforts to prevent crime and to return offenders to the community.

HERNANDO B. PEREZ
Secretary of Justice and
Chairman, NCCW
National Secretariat

Corrections Summit

The NCCW will be opened by a one-day "Corrections Summit" where key players of the corrections pillar of the criminal justice system will participate. To be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the 22nd of October 2001, the Summit will be a gathering of parole and probation officers, jail and prison guards and religious and non-religious organizations involved in prison welfare. The Summit will address two critical problems, namely, jail congestion and the entry of youthful offenders into the adult prison system. scheduled to read papers during the Summit is the head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and Atty. Sedfrey M. Candelaria of the Ateneo Human Rights Center.

LAST YEAR'S "KULAY" PRISON ART EXHIBIT AT THE QUEZON CITY HALL LOBBY

Prison Records Training Program

The NCCW will sponsor a program of the Bureau of Jail and Management Penology to train jail personnel on prison records and management. This will promote the proper maintenance of prison records and the timely release of jail inmates. The first training session will be held in Ilagan, Isabela.

Jail Decongestion Program

During the NCCW, the Jail Decongestion Program will be implemented in selected city jails throughout the country that are suffering from acute overcrowding. Participating parties of the Program have made preliminary visits to the Quezon City Jail and the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan. The Summit is expected to discuss how the jail decongestion program can be improved.

Prison Art Exhibit

There will be an exhibition of prison art at the Quezon City Hall lobby from 21 to 27 October 2001. The artists are members of the "Kulay/Kultura at Layunin Group of Artists", a group of inmate-painters confined in the maximum-security compound of the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City. The paintings in the exhibit will be offered for sale to the public. All sales proceeds will be given to the inmate-painters.

Open House

Prisons and jails throughout the country will be open to the public during the NCCW. Handicrafts and other products made by inmates will be on sale in some of the penal establishments. This activity will give the public a rare insight into an inmate's life.

Correctional Excellence Awards

On 25 October 2001, "Correctional Excellence Awards" will be given to corrections workers who have shown exemplary commitment to their work and genuine concern for their wards. The award carries a cash prize of P20,000. The winners were chosen by a Board of Judges headed by Rep. Marcelino C. Libanan, the Chairman of the House Committee on Justice, with Retired General Charles Mondejar and Rodolfo Diamante, as members.

JCI ABDUKADIL S. MUHARRAM RECEIVING THE YEAR 2000 CORRECTIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD AS THE MOST OUTSTANDING BJMP WORKER

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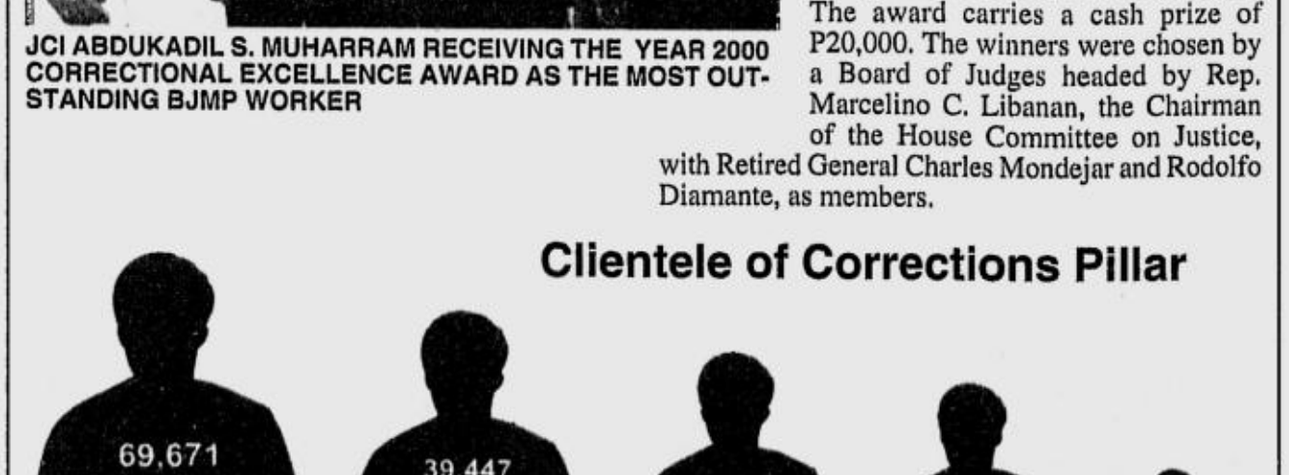

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

ACCUSER Robert Rivero failed to produce evidence to prove the involvement of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in the alleged misuse of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo Hotel, Pimentel said the former PCSO media consultant produced no new revelations and merely repeated what he had stated in his affidavit.

But even on that point, Pimentel said, "no documentary evidence was presented that Mike Arroyo had indeed something to do with the use of the funds."

Pimentel then challenged Rivero to substantiate his allegations with evidence "so that there may be basis to summon the First Gentleman."

The only document that Rivero managed to show the Senate investigators was a letter addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo which purportedly detailed how PCSO funds would be used to bankroll the campaigns of four administration senatorial candidates, Pimentel said.

The letter reportedly indicated that it had been received by the President's office.

"The letter is presumed to have reached the President but according to Rivero, there was no reaction from the President herself," Pimentel said.

ARROYO

PIMENTEL

The Senate committee on constitutional amendments has launched an investigation into Rivero's charge that Arroyo had allegedly masterminded the operation to use P250 million in PCSO funds to bankroll the advertising campaigns of administration senatorial candidates Juan Flavier, Joker Arroyo, Ernesto Herrera and Roberto Pagdanganan during the May elections.

At least P13 million was allegedly paid out to some radio and TV commentators.

But Rivero also failed to substantiate his allegations against the media personalities, Pimentel said.

The senator said the burden lies with Rivero to prove that the media personalities knew that the money they allegedly received had come from the PCSO, if indeed they accepted the alleged bribes.

Meanwhile, the Senate committee investigating the alleged scam said it would press for the appearance of Arroyo in the next hearing so he could refute Rivero's charges.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, the committee chair, said that contrary to news reports, Arroyo did not snub the hearing last Friday.

He said Arroyo had informed the committee through his lawyer that he could not make it to the hearing as he would be accompanying the President to Shanghai to attend the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

The Congress will go on a two-week recess starting on Oct 26.

Angara said Arroyo would be asked to attend the next hearing when the session reopens next month.

Angara reiterated that the investigation would be fair, open, objective and non-partisan so that there was no need for the majority senators to have boycotted the committee hearings.

He said the committee would proceed with the inquiry with or without the majority senators.

The majority senators said Angara's committee has no "plenary authority" to conduct the investigation.

Pimentel said the committee proceedings last Friday were valid because there were nine senators present.

He cited the Senate rule that the presence of a committee chairman and a member is enough to constitute a quorum.

"There was no need to compel the majority senators to attend. It was up to their conscience to determine whether they were right or wrong," Pimentel said. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Witness distorted facts on PCSO mess–Palace

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson yesterday accused former PCSO consultant Robert Rivero of "distorting facts" when he claimed he had told the President about the misuse of the charity office's funds.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Rivero himself had not raised any alarms about the use of PCSO funds for the campaign ads of administration senatorial candidates.

Malacañang provided reporters with a copy of Rivera's three-page letter to the President dated June 14.

"Rivero wrote the letter not to call the President's attention to the alleged fund misuse but to defend himself against charges of corruption the PCSO management was firming up against him," Tiglao said.

"In his letter, Rivero claimed to have negotiated the ad placements with the Bombo Radyo and RMN networks. He did not present any proof (of wrongdoing)," Tiglao said.

In his letter, Rivero told the President he had angered "many PCSO officials, including a department head and a COA auditor," because he had discovered anomalies in the advertising contracts.

He said the group behind the anomalies had managed to get the support of newly appointed PCSO chair Livia Singson-de Leon, board secretary Cerilo Avila and board member Linggoy Alcuaz.

These officials, he said, "circulated rumors that I had received cash advances for ad contracts."

Rivero went on: "I am also prepared, Madame President, to face the consequences of my actions in negotiating the ad contracts with RMN and Bombo Radyo, which involved free advertisements and promotions worth over P12.8 million for all the 13 senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition.

"The ad contracts allowed us to promote our press releases on the Erap arrest issue, especially during the May 1 mob attack on Malacañang," he said.

Rivero ended his letter by saying he was prepared to face those who had accused him of taking kickbacks from the contracts.

He told the President he decided to bring the matter to her attention "because I do not want anyone from the opposition to use the irregularities in the PCSO to besmirch the good reputation of your presidency."

Tiglao said Rivero's last statement appeared to be a "veiled threat" against the President.

He said that upon receiving Rivero's letter, Ms Macapagal summoned De Leon, who showed her the affidavits accusing Rivero of extorting money from the radio stations in exchange for the PCSO ad placements.

De Leon also denied that PCSO funds were being misused.

"If there was any fund misuse, and we emphasize there wasn't, the President was only informed by Rivero one month after the May elections," Tiglao said.

"In fact, his claim that 'GMA knew of the PCSO fund misuse' was contained in just one by-the-way paragraph of his three-paged letter," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Rivero also failed to present to the President his supposed witnesses who would prove that De Leon's son pocketed "25 to 50 percent" in kickbacks from the ad contracts.

Low Clark arrivals not fault of Naia 3, says DOTC usec

THE SOON-TO-OPEN Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport has nothing to do with the present "unproductive state" of the former Clark International Airport, according to Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad.

In a recent hearing by the House committee on transportation and communications, Trinidad said the current unprofitable state of the Clark airport, recently renamed the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, is dictated by market forces and not by the construction of the new Naia 3 terminal.

Trinidad chided members of the Move Clark Now and the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement (PGKM) for "barking up the wrong tree" by continually harping on the Naia 3 project as a hindrance to the development of DMIA.

He added that Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc. (Piatco), the Filipino-German consortium tasked to build, operate, and maintain Naia 3, does not in anyway impede in the development of DMIA as it is already operating as an international airport.

"Piatco has nothing to do with DMIA. Market forces would dictate the productivity of any airport or any business for that matter. If there are still no passengers going to Clark, we cannot compel airlines to get there," Trinidad said.

Ruperto Cruz, president of the PGKM who was present during the hearing, blamed the new terminal as the primary cause of DMIA's present unproductive state, citing a provision in the concession agreement that prevents DMIA from operating beyond its 350,000 passenger capacity a year for three consecutive years.

Lawyer Moises Tolentino, spokesperson of Piatco, clarified that DMIA can operate as an international airport and can even start constructing additional infrastructure in the complex even before Naia 3 starts its operations.

Tolentino, in a press statement, said that the contract only calls for DMIA to operate within its annual capacity of 850,000 passengers until the new terminal is able to reach 10 million passengers a year capacity.

Trinidad said it would not take long for the new terminal to reach the projected capacity as Naia's Terminal 1 is already servicing seven million passengers a year, three million above its capacity of only four million passengers a year.

On the other hand, Trinidad expressed doubts that the Clark airport can even reach the 850,000 passenger-capacity a year in the next six years. It currently services only 35,000 passengers a year, mostly on chartered flights.

DPWH seeks law to allow joint ventures

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

PUBLIC Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong has urged Congress to enact a law that would allow the joint venture of local and foreign contractors for major infrastructure projects.

Datumanong made the proposal as he appealed to local contractors to participate in the completion of government projects that are postponed due to the lack of participating builders.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has been criticized for the delay in the completion of government projects and implementation of infrastructure reforms.

But Public Works Undersecretary Emmanuel Mir stressed that the DPWH has been having a hard time starting work on the projects because of the lack of bidders.

"There are many projects but very few contractors," Mir said in an earlier interview. "Most of the contractors who are capable of taking government projects are already loaded."

He said the DPWH had no choice under the circumstances but to set aside the projects until the contractors are available.

Mir added that the DPWH could not hire foreign contractors because under the FLAG Law, the government could only tap those whose government also hire Filipino contractors in their country.

Ople: Appointees will rise and fall on merits

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

POLITICAL appointees coming before the Commission on Appointments will be judged on their merits, not on the basis of personal grudges or perceived slights.

This was the assurance made yesterday by Sen. Blas Ople, a commission member, even after he had raised several thorny issues against Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho at last week's confirmation hearing.

Ople had grilled Camacho on the propriety of putting up posters in front of his home demeaning to Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, a neighbor who supported then President Joseph Estrada.

Oreta, who lives across from Camacho in Urdaneta Village, Makati, was called "*pokpok*" (slut) in the posters reportedly put up by Camacho's sons.

Camacho said he did not know what was on the streamers but he assured the commission he was taking responsibility for the actions of his family.

Oreta had drawn national ire for doing a jig on TV during the Senate impeachment trial of Estrada in January.

Ople also confronted Camacho about a letter the latter's mother, activist Leonarda Camacho, had written the senator, taking him to task for his actions during the Estrada administration.

The letter had called Ople's actuations "shameful."

Ople said he would not allow the incidents with the posters and the letter to cloud his judgment about the fitness of Camacho to hold office.

"This is not the first time I have dealt with the supercilious rich who think they can intimidate senators because of their wealth," Ople said.

"As to the letter, I put it down as an expression of a mother's instinct to protect an over-protected child. It was of no moment," he said.

The senator took issue, however, with some members of the Makati Business Club who had called the issues raised against Camacho at the confirmation hearing "trivial."

Gloria: ₱30 wage increase not much, but...

BY ARMAND NOCUM
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

SHANGHAI, China (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted yesterday the P30-increase in the emergency cost of living allowance (Ecola) may not be much, but it would help alleviate for now the hardship of workers in Metro Manila.

In a press briefing at the Hua Ting Hotel here, the President said that when the economy improves, the business sector might be in a better position to grant higher wages.

"That is okay for now because of the difficult situation we are in," she said of the Ecola that was approved recently by the National Capital Region tripartite wages and productivity board.

Militant groups, however, were not too happy with the wage increase. *(See related story on Page A22)*

"Adding insult to injury" was how Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales described the P30 pay hike.

"I am terribly dismayed by the position of the wage board," Rosales said in a phone interview.

"Like giving the starving workers candies for breakfast and banana-cue for lunch," was how militant groups described the wage hike, as they vowed to mount mass actions for higher pay.

The Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino slammed the NCR wage board "for setting a very undesirable precedent for the other wage boards across the country."

The wage board's P30 hike was less than half the P77 pay increase sought by the labor group and hewed closer to the amount volunteered by employers.

The increase would apply only to workers earning less than P290 a day. Firms with less than 10 employees or those suffering financial problems are exempt from paying the Ecola.

Rosales said the order was disappointing because it would be enjoyed by only a few workers.

She said that of the estimated 860,000 firms in Metro Manila, up to 90 percent are small and medium enterprises. And 85 percent of these SMEs employ fewer than 10 workers, she said.

Rosales said the insult came when the employers' groups asked that the P30 be given in two tranches—P15 this year and P15 early next year.

Rosales has filed a bill seeking to abolish the regional wage boards and leave the job of fixing wages to the existing National Productivity and Wage Commission.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya urged workers, especially those who would not be receiving the P30 pay hike, to join the protests and lobby for the original P125 wage increase sought by militant groups.

Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said Filipino workers, whose productivity has risen to P1,214 per day, were grossly underpaid and exploited, belying claims by employer groups that their pay was too high.

"It's just like compensating a regular worker with some candies for breakfast and a banana cue for lunch for his productive day of work," Sambajon said. ***With Blanche S. Rivera***

Death penalty reversal blamed on bad advice

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's reversal on the death penalty may have come about because of pressure from the Chinese-Filipino community and "wrong advice" from National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, Akbayan Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales said yesterday.

Rosales, an advocate against the death penalty, urged the President to heed the warnings from the Free Legal Assistance Group.

The Flag said Ms Macapagal was courting impeachment if she goes through with her intention to carry out the execution of six convicted kidnappers whose death sentences had been commuted to life imprisonment by her predecessor.

"I think the President should take very seriously the statement of Flag that it would be very violative of the Constitution if she executes those people," Rosales said.

Ms Macapagal, after a meeting with representatives of the Chinese-Filipino community earlier this week, reversed her stand on capital punishment to which she had been opposed when she came into office in January.

She said she would have 95 convicted people executed once the Supreme Court affirmed their sentences.

She also called for the commuted death sentences of the six convicted kidnappers annulled so that they could be executed.

"She must really be getting wrong advice. I think Roi Golez is too close to her," Rosales said in a phone interview.

Rosales recalled that when Golez was still in Congress, he was one of the staunchest proponents of the death penalty and had a hand in having the Death Penalty Law passed.

"This is the same guy who rushed to the Supreme Court to secure a resolution in favor of the death penalty," said Rosales as she urged the President to "review and withdraw" her decision. ***Juliet Labog-Javellana***

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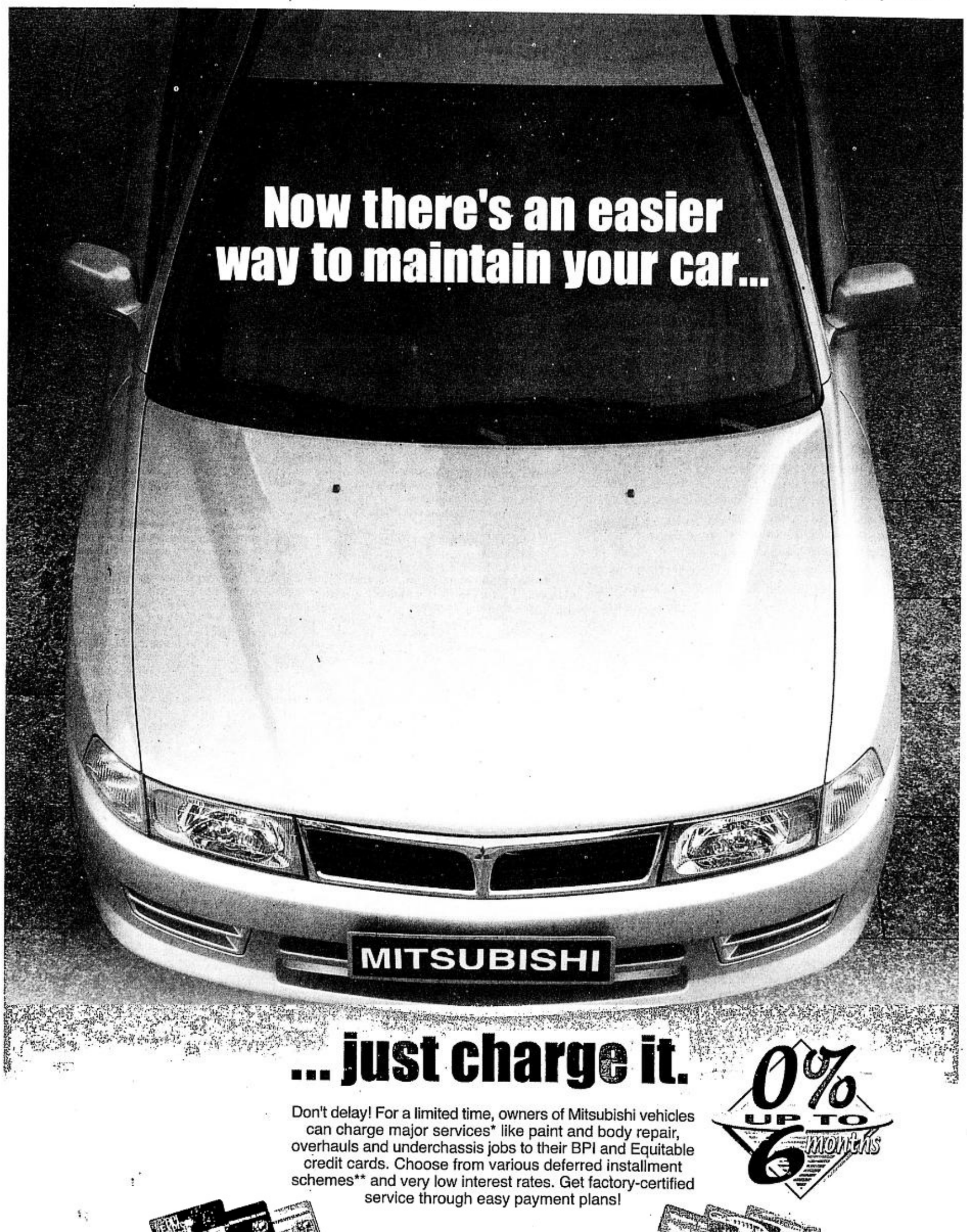

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Kidnapping, again

EDITORIAL

LIKE a ghost at a banquet, the kidnapping last Wednesday night of Fr. Giuseppi "Beppe" Pierantoni has cast a pall over President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's participation at the Apec summit in Beijing this weekend.

Instead of focusing completely on the economic and international policy agenda at her first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting of heads of government, the President will likely be distracted by renewed international questioning over the country's seeming inability to curb crime and impose peace and order.

The abduction of the Italian parish priest of Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur—he was seized by a group of armed men as he was having supper after saying evening Mass—dramatizes the lawlessness that, even more than economic destitution, the public fears above all.

The news from the military, two days after the crime, that the missionary was abducted not by members of the dreaded Abu Sayyaf but by members of a lost command of former Moro rebels called the Pentagon gang is calming only in a superficial sense. A deeper look into the statement of Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command—that a description of one of the kidnappers provided by eyewitnesses matches that of Faizal Marohombsar, the Pentagon leader—leads us to the inevitable conclusion: While much of the military's resources are tied up in its months-long pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf in the jungles of Basilan, other criminal groups have the opportunity to strike elsewhere.

In response to Cimatu's marching orders to "inflict casualties or kill them all," Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, head of the special task force set up to handle the kidnapping, said, "We will do our best, but most of our troops are in Basilan and the remaining soldiers are thinly spread in the Zamboanga peninsula."

The Pentagon gang is based in a Lanao del Norte town.

But the Pierantoni abduction, dramatic as it is, is only the latest in a recent series of high-profile kidnappings, including the cases of Connie Yap Wong, sister-in-law of Uratex owner Robert Cheng; Jacqui Rowena Tiu, daughter of a Chinese-Filipino trader in San Fernando City; and a grandchild of taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, the Philippine ambassador to the United Nations.

The Wong case, in particular, has stunned the Chinese-Filipino community, because it ended in the death of the kidnap victim. Last Monday, the leading members of this community paid a call on the President in Malacañang, to urge her to do something about this "kind of terrorism that preys on the economic backbone of our country." The community leaders lamented that kidnappings were happening almost every day in the two weeks leading up to the meeting. "The situation is critical and this is a question of survival of the Chinese community that can affect the stability of President Macapagal's administration," Rizal Yuyitung, publisher of the Chinese-language daily Chinese Commercial News, told the media before the meeting.

We realize how exasperating it must be for a policy wonk like the President to prepare speeches and briefing papers on the country's long-term business prospects, to prepare to impress international business leaders like Bill Gates with the information-technology potential of Filipino technicians, and then to face questions about something as basic—and as base—as crime. But that is where we are. The reality is, as long as the Abu Sayyaf holds one hostage, as long as the Pentagon gang can strike at any parish church in certain parts of Mindanao with impunity, as long as the various kidnap-for-ransom gangs in Metro Manila continue to prey on businessmen and their kin—and as long as the ranks of the police continue to be scalawag-ridden—the talk will always be about criminality.

The Chinese-Filipino leaders urged Ms Macapagal to cleanse the ranks of the Philippine National Police and to order immediate strikes against the kidnap gangs. "We believe that the best way to fight the syndicates is to hit them even before they start working on their next victim. We cannot wait until another Filipino is in their hands before we mobilize our forces to attempt a rescue," their statement read.

The President has accepted another of their suggestions, to apply the death penalty in kidnap-for-ransom cases. But the real answer, as their own statement implies, lies not in punitive but preventive measures.

Neither civil nor serving

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE was a video report this week of an impromptu mass protest at the National Statistics Office against the inaction of its employees. There were hundreds of people who had gone to the NSO to ask for various certifications about their civil status. Apparently, their requests had piled up unheeded. The situation came to a boil, so to speak, when many of them came at the same time with the same complaint. This coincidence unintentionally dramatized the urgency of their need and their impatience with the NSO for its inefficiency.

The newscast added that the TV reporters sought to interview the personnel of the agency but not one of them was willing to talk. Perhaps no one had an excuse to offer. One woman grumbled that she had been in the office since 8 o'clock, implying she had been waiting for quite a while for nothing. There was no sign of the head of the agency or of his assistant despite the late hour. They might have explained the mysterious reason for the deluge of angry protests.

What could have ignited that mass action? Was there a breakdown of some of the machines that tied up the work of the whole office? Was there an outbreak of anthrax among the personnel? Or was there simply an epidemic of indolence that gripped the entire staff and rendered it unable to perform its duties? The NSO is a government agency. It is maintained at public expense to serve the people who pay the taxes needed to support it.

So what else is new? By and large, this is the kind of non-performance one is likely to encounter in a government office. The ordinary citizen is not the master but a *supplicant* for the attention of the so-called civil servant.

That attention may be demanded as a matter of right, but that is easier said than done. The typical government employee is expert in evading work, and passing the buck is also standard operating procedure. The shirker will pretend to be busy if the person seeking his assistance appears to be nothing special, that is, looks to be of lowly birth or bearing as to be not intimidating. Special means that the person before him looks important or, luckily for him, a potential victim.

Important means that he is dealing with someone he cannot ignore or dismiss, like a politician or a lawyer. They will not allow any hanky-panky from him. Victims are those who, wise in the ways of the bureaucracy, believe they can get no action at all unless they slip a hundred pesos or so under the table. Favorable action requires more lubrication.

To be fair, I should emphasize that there are some government offices that are run like efficient private companies. They have courteous personnel who will attend to your business with dispatch and a smile. When I had to change the depositary bank for my SSS pensions last year, Ms Delma V. Alma Jose of the SSS Alabang branch, whom I had never met before, cheerfully facilitated the process. She does not know that by going out of her way to help me, she restored my faith in some of our government functionaries.

Coming back to the rule rather than the exception, I too have a complaint against government inaction. My peeve is with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. I had a cataract operation last July 12 and filed an application for medical benefits, attaching all the required supporting documents. I was assured it would take not more than three months to process my papers. The deadline has come and gone, but I have yet to receive my reimbursement check. Could it be because of the improvident investment of the SSS funds in the Equitable PCI Bank?

And then there is the complaint of my daughter, Cynthia Cruz Datu, whose request for a substitute driver's license has been pending in the Land Transportation Office for almost a year now. Her license was among the contents of her purse, which was stolen on Nov. 12, 2000. She filed an affidavit of loss with the Makati LTO branch and was advised to return in February. She went back to that branch not once but thrice but was informed each time that the substitute license was not yet ready. When she called for the *fourth* time recently, *only then* was she informed that she had to file an application for a substitute license with the head office in Quezon City.

Why is she now directed to the Quezon City head office when she was earlier repeatedly told to come back to the Makati branch for the license? Why was she not advised *at the very outset* that a formal application for the substitute license had to be filed with the LTO head office, together with the affidavit of loss that the Makati branch *accepted?* I address these legitimate and indignant questions to Chief Edgardo Abenina of the LTO. Ordinary citizens should not be required to dance attendance on his minions and obey their every whim in their petty sinecures.

There ought to be a deeper sense of responsibility among our civil servants, especially the rank-and-file. The majority of them do not seem to be imbued with the proper attitude toward their work and the public they are supposed to serve. That is the reason, on top of the red tape, for the inordinate delay in the discharge of official functions. The blatant spectacle of employees playing *dama* during office hours or examining jewelry for sale on installment is all too common in our government offices. Such conduct is an affront to both the civil service and the public.

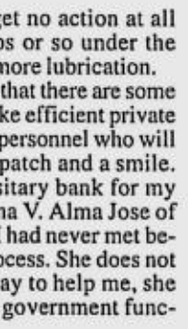
I hope the Civil Service Commission will take more effective steps to cure this malady of our civil service. It has gone far enough to get even worse. The public is entitled to expeditious and courteous service from the government, from the highest to the lowest level. Public functionaries should be made to realize that it is the public that is paying their salaries and other perquisites, including their future pensions. They should show that they deserve such emoluments by performing their assigned work conscientiously and promptly.

May I add, with all due respect, that these admonitions apply to all the offices in the government, including its major branches. The Senate last Tuesday had a glittering shindig while its urgent work, like the decision on the Lacson case, lay waiting to be done. While President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo goes speechifying every day, many affairs of state, like the alarming rise in criminality, demand her prior attention. And in the judiciary, cases like the appeal of the jailed Rep. Romeo Jalosjos and the extradition of the bailed Rep. Mark Jimenez, gather dust in its dockets as if they had been archived.

The civil service must receive a massive reorientation on its responsibilities as the faithful servants and not the mere beneficiaries and dependents of the public it is sworn to serve.

Pray on

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

HAVE you ever prayed so hard for something? Have you ever really pleaded with your heart and soul for a very, very special favor from God?

I have. In 1987 when my father was in the ICU fighting for his life after an operation, I really and literally put everything on hold and burned the lines to heaven with prayers. All I was asking from God was to give him some more years, for after all he was such a good man. And here I was, his priest and all, so could I just be given just this special favor, I pleaded. Day and night I pleaded, offered sacrifices, good works, anything, everything just for my Papa to get well.

On June 23, 1987 at 3 p.m., after two weeks in the ICU, my father died. For a moment, my heart stopped and my whole world collapsed. But, I prayed on. I prayed on angry, I prayed on resentful, but I prayed on. There was nothing nice to pray about but I prayed on anyway. God did not answer my earnest prayer, but at least I knew there was someone to pray to, and that, itself is the value of prayer.

* * *

The Gospel today (Lk. 18, 1-8) speaks about praying always and without ceasing. The problem with some people is precisely that they stop praying when their prayers are not answered or when their prayers are already answered.

* * *

Persistence works. I needed to get in touch with a senator this week with a very urgent request for the family of a very good friend of mine, Sonny Sison, who is very sick. I was given the cell phone number of her aide. For two days, all I could get was a voice message telling me to leave my message. The aide never called back, but I kept telling my message anyway. Finally, on the third day, I received a call—from the senator herself!

Persistence indeed works. God does answer prayers. Sometimes the answer is YES—if it is good for you; sometimes the answer is NO—if it is bad for you; sometimes the answer is WAIT—because there's something better for you. Whatever, the message is pray on!

* * *

On a personal note, the courtship of Papa and Mama was a simple matter of persistence and perseverance. They first met in high school in Lingayen, Pangasinan. Papa did not have the money or the looks, but he tried to excel in school and showed that he was of good character. He befriended the youngest brother of Mama, Tito Pepito (who later died in Bataan at the young age of 19). It was he who told Mama to consider Papa as her future husband because of his good *ugali* (character). All throughout his UP College of Law days, he would write Mama every day. It took him 10 years to court Mama. He succeeded because of his persistence, and they had a successful marriage because his persistent courtship did not end when they got married.

* * *

It is not easy to pray without ceasing. In fact, it is not easy to pray at all. When you find yourself in such a situation, try these different kinds of prayer called ACTS: A—adoration; C—contrition; T—thanksgiving; S—supplication. Or try ALTAR: A—adore the Lord; L—listen to the Lord; T—thank the Lord; A—ask the Lord; R—rejoice in the Lord. Most of all, pray to the Holy Spirit when praying does not come easy.

* * *

We do not have bombs or missiles, but let us continue to bombard heaven with our prayers, especially these days. Our greatest weapon is the rosary. All of us can contribute to world peace by praying the rosary especially this October. Try to pray the rosary every day. All it takes is about 15 to 20 minutes of your time. Pray the rosary with others—with your family, with your helpers, with your friends. Pray the rosary with your heart, not just with your lips.

Whatever, pray on. Let us join the children's rosary rally for peace on Oct. 28 at 4:30 p.m., in all parishes.

* * *

They are hidden, often unheard of, but they are there, always praying for us. These are the contemplatives, the cloistered religious who pray 24 hours a day for all of us. These are the Pink Sisters, the Carmelites and the Trappists, just to name some.

This column wishes to salute and thank them. Because of their silent and holy presence in our midst, this world is spared from destruction. We salute too the many lay people who continue to offer continuous prayers and hidden sacrifices for all of us.

* * *

Today is Mission Sunday. Please say a prayer for the many anonymous missionaries who have left home, country and family, braving deprivation, loneliness and even death and persecution for the sake of the Gospel. Pray for missionaries like Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni, SCJ, and Martin and Gracia Burnham, now held as hostages in Mindanao. Please get in touch with us at the Mission Office on how to help our Filipino missionaries abroad, 721-74-57/727-11-60; e-mail address: jorbos@manila-online.net.

* * *

Help the outreach program of the Philippine Neurological Association c/o Dr. Raymond Espinosa through the concert "Music Making Co. with Gary Lising" at the Onstage Greenbelt, Nov. 6. For further details, call 723-2102 and 723-1079.

* * *

Finally, we have Malampaya, our fuel to the future, our fuel for the future. Hidden for 28 million years, three kilometers below the ocean, traveling for 504 kilometers, this natural gas was finally found and now made available. Why? Because of perseverance. Hard work, much prayer and perseverance—that's what we need in the Philippines and in the world today.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, even when it seems futile, and there's no answer, help me to pray on. Amen.

Wages and tall tales

CROSSCURRENTS

Antonio T. Carpio

A THIRTY-PESO daily wage hike was approved the other day by the wage-fixing board for the National Capital Region. Employees find this amount a pittance while employers, many of whom are losing or barely breaking even, wonder where they will get the money to meet the bigger payroll. With the economy expected to contract further, sales will continue to fall.

In this global economy, we need to redefine what is a living wage. In China, where the average family consists of a father, a mother and one child, a living wage is one that can support a family of three. In the Philippines, where the average family size is six, a living wage is one that can support a family of six.

A businessman planning to set up a factory and employ a thousand workers will ask, "Where will I locate my factory, in the Philippines or China?" The answer is obvious: China. In China, the employer is burdened with supporting three persons for every one employee, while in the Philippines the employer is burdened with supporting six persons for every one employee. This largely explains why China accounts for more that 50 percent of total direct foreign investments in Asia.

Add the fact that electric power cost in China is less than half of the power cost in the Philippines and you will understand why even Chinese-Filipino businessmen have relocated their factories to China. With tariff walls crashing down as a result of our entry into the World Trade Organization, businessmen, whether foreign or local, will naturally manufacture in China and export to the Philippines. This situation is killing our local industries and causing severe unemployment in the country.

To survive, we must redefine what we mean by a living wage, taking into account how other nations define this term. Otherwise, there is no way we can compete in the global economy. If we do not change our definition of a living wage, the only recourse is to erect once again high tariff walls, and to do this we will have to abandon the WTO. We cannot remain in the WTO while clinging on to our pre-WTO ideas. That would be burying our heads in the sand.

* * *

TALL TALES. Robert Rivero, the ex-PCSO consultant who turned against his bosses after he was investigated for extortion activities, stated that I was interested in a P3-million PCSO contract that would fund an information campaign on "Effective Poll Watching" during the last elections. This is a blatant lie.

Some time in April 2001, lawyer Dante Marcelo came to see me with a written proposal for Lakas-NUCD to print 120,000 copies of the pamphlet, titled "Effective Poll Watching," that he authored. Marcelo also proposed that Lakas-NUCD buy 200 copies of the videotape version of the pamphlet. In the 1992 and 1995 elections, the Lakas-NUCD printed thousand of copies of this pamphlet for distribution to poll watchers nationwide. The pamphlet teaches poll watchers how to detect and expose electoral fraud.

I informed Marcelo that I was not involved in running the election campaign for the People Power Coalition, and it would be better for him to see directly the people in charge of the campaign. The PPC campaign manager was Paul Aquino, whom I never met or even talked to during the entire election period. Marcelo did not press the matter further after I gave him back his written proposal without writing anything on it.

That was how our conversation ended. I never discussed again this matter with anyone, until recently when Rivero stated that the "Effective Poll Watching" pamphlet was my "favorite project."

It turned out that after Marcelo saw me, he went to Lakas-NUCD executive director Joey Rufino, and submitted a similar proposal to him. Rufino wrote a letter to PCSO General Manager Virgilio Angelo recommending that the "PCSO consider purchasing the 200 copies of the videotapes and handbooks from Attorney Marcelo." This letter was submitted by Marcelo to the PCSO, together with a printing proposal from Media Expressions, the printer of the pamphlet. Angelo, however, turned down the proposal because it was political in nature and outside the charter of the PCSO. The proposal never reached the PCSO Board, no contract was ever signed and not a single centavo was disbursed for the project.

The written proposal that Marcelo addressed to me was not attached to Rufino's letter to Angelo. However, Rivero made it appear in his public pronouncements that Rufino's letter to Angelo also carried my endorsement because of Marcelo's written proposal to me. It turned out that Rivero obtained a copy of Marcelo's written proposal to me from a representative of Media Expressions. Incidentally, Rivero recommended favorably the proposal to Angelo who, as I said earlier, turned it down.

Last August, Dick Sinchongco submitted an affidavit to the PCSO accusing Rivero of demanding, and actually receiving, P200,000 from V.G. Productions in exchange for the release of V.G. Productions' receivables from the PCSO. This complaint was the reason why Rivero's consultancy contract with the PCSO was not renewed. There are many other media and advertising people who were victimized by Rivero's extortion activities, and many of them are prepared to testify against him.

What is the big picture here? Apparently, there are forces trying to develop an impeachment case against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, using Rivero as the new whistler-blower following in the footsteps of Chavit Singson. But Rivero is no Chavit. Rivero has not admitted his extortionist activities while Chavit had made his *mea culpas*. There can be no redemption without repentance.

Once in a gathering at the Manila Yacht Club at the height of the impeachment case against Estrada, someone suggested to Singson to embellish his testimony because the public would believe in him no matter what he would say. Singson said he would only tell the truth. Singson, the man who knew the power of money, politics and arms, finally realized that the truth was more powerful than any force on earth. The simple, unvarnished truth of what he was saying was bringing down the most powerful man in the country.

Rivero is a different breed altogether. He invents, twists and embellishes the facts. Rivero has only encouraged more people to testify against him, particularly in the extortion cases that will soon be filed against him.

Wanted: Alternative lawyers

THE LEGAL acrobatics that started at the aborted Estrada impeachment trial, and continues at his plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan has showcased the odd and the bizarre in the profession of law. The dilatory and delaying tactics, the questions on motives and fees have, at the very least, provided some amusement. Speculations on multi-million fees to defense lawyers—estimated to be so huge that former magistrates of the Supreme Court and a former senator are willing to risk replacing their fame with notoriety in history—have projected the legal profession as a very lucrative one, and therefore, enticing.

COMMENTARY

Jigger S. Latoza
Institute on Church and Social Issues

However, contrary to what a former senator-judge who lost in the recent elections insinuated during the impeachment trial, not all look at the legal profession from this perspective. This reminds me of the late lawyers Roberto Gana and Carlos Ollado, then my "neighbors" at Loyola, since their Saligan office was just across the Institute on Church and Social Issues, where I got involved in the Jesuits' social apostolate while taking my master's at the Ateneo.

Gana and Ollado perished in the Cebu Pacific crash in February 1998, a tragic loss to family and friends. To us who knew their practice of law, what was heartbreaking was that they died on the way to a meeting with the Mapalad farmers of Bukidnon, to whom they were providing generous, able legal and moral help, in the latter's rightful, yet uphill, fight to own the land they tilled.

Gana could have easily landed a very lucrative law practice in Makati or Ortigas, without seeking one. He was a top graduate of the Ateneo Law School and a bar topnotcher. Yet, he opted to teach Social Justice Advocacy at the Loyola School of Theology, and to do low-profile work at the Ateneo-based Saligan, where his office did not have air-conditioning.

For Ollado, a UST graduate, the choice of alternative lawyering meant not being able to help much his own poor family. To him, the satisfaction in the practice of law came from serving the urban poor, the peasants and the homeless, and the other marginalized sectors of society. In a sense, his was a bigger sacrifice.

There are, for sure, many other Ganas and Ollados around. Yet, their brilliance in using the law as instruments of justice seems to have been pushed to the periphery of public consciousness, in the same manner that the interests of their powerless and voiceless clients have been sidelined for a long time. There is a need for many more of them.

Thus, it is worth noting that the concept of alternative law, also called human rights law or advocacy law, has been recently introduced in law schools, as an option for soon-to-be lawyers. Before this, we only heard of the Ateneo Human Rights Center and the UP Office of Legal Aid doing this. In the Visayas, the University of San Agustin (Iloilo City) recently inaugurated its Center for Alternative Law, which works hand in hand with the Human Rights Desk of the university's Institute for Social Development Issues and Initiatives. Just months after its launching, the center has entered an appearance in a case involving a violation of environmental laws regarding incinerators in Iloilo City. Similar interventions have been started or are about to start in the law schools of the University of San Carlos (Cebu), Xavier University (Cagayan de Oro), Ateneo de Davao University, and Saint Louis University (Baguio).

These developments are encouraging, and if replicated in many other law schools, will hopefully result in more lawyers who look at the law as a weapon against abuse, rather than as a shield for the abuser. If law students are oriented to this notion of the law early on, then the work of such alternative law groups as the Women's Legal Bureau, the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center—Kasama sa Kalikasan and Panlipi, will be much easier.

To quote what Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said to the participants of the First Alternative Law Conference in 1999: "It is troubling that the lawyers who advocate such worthy causes, often without certainty of remuneration, are called the alternative. An alternative is a second choice. You (alternative lawyers) should be considered the mainstream, the first choice, the true and ideal lawyers; better yet, the conscience of the legal profession."

Indeed, the call to alternative law is a cry of appeal addressed to the conscience. It is a cry coming from the unfortunate Mapalad farmers in Bukidnon, the homeless urban poor of North Triangle in Quezon City and in the slums of Iloilo City, the prostituted children in Davao City, the abused women in Cebu City, the eternally landless hacienda laborers in Negros Occidental, the vanguards of the environment in Marinduque, the indigenous peoples in Panay, the Cordilleras and Mindanao, and many more.

Hopefully, many more lawyers and future lawyers will heed this call from clients who can only pay with vegetables, a dozen eggs, a chicken, a hug, or a "thank you."

A great show

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY ALL rights this piece should begin with a rave review of the dancers who accompanied the CL mothers singing "If I Could" at the recent Music and Dance Festival of the Community of Learners.

Apart from saying, though, that the dancing was, as usual, beyond expectations, this proud mother will keep her trap shut.

So let me rave about the entire show instead, which unwound for over two hours last Oct. 13 at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater in Ateneo. The MDF was supposed to serve two purposes: to mark the school's "debut" or 18th year since its founding, and to raise funds for the construction of its permanent home. Along the way, it also served to unite the generations of the CL family, from parents and children, to the teachers and staff, alumni and friends. It also showcased the wealth of talent and creativity among the students, faculty and parents. And for this parent, who had sat through years of delightfully spontaneous but chaotic CL programs, this year's MDF demonstrated that when they put their minds to it, CL students can put on an orderly and well-organized show, barring a few hitches here and there.

The history of the MDF actually begins in 1996, with a mini-concert entitled "Tatsulok," featuring Samok, the first school rock band, to raise funds for the high school dance. Even before the concert had ended, though, other students began to ask if they could stage their own shows the following year, since bands had begun (and continue) to sprout in school. So it was that the first Music and Dance Fest was held in 1997. "Talent (real or imagined) indeed abounds and a very enthusiastic and supportive audience can be found among COL families," says a write-up. In the last school year, the students took part in four concerts: MDF Junior, MDF Senior, Lower School MDF and Himig ng Kabataan.

* * *

ALL of this talent, hard work and dedication was on display at the "Grand" Family Music and Dance Fest. I never knew, for instance, that there was so much artistry abounding among CL parents!

Foremost of them is Michael V., father to Milo and Yani, who took on the heroic task of directing the show. Aside from this awesome challenge, he also assumed the role of "Bitoy," the youngest member of "A COLF Family," a running skit that served as transition between the numbers. At other times, "Bitoy" became "Mr. Bean (Laden)," a strange character in an oversized white suit and shoulder-length hair, and the voice, too, of "Bebang," familiar to many viewers of "Bitoy's World."

Playing the father in the skit was Jaime Fabregas, father to Mateo, Leandro, Inez and Emilio, while the mother was Anna Santos-Villar, a CL teacher and mother to Amos, Amigo and Alyssa, who managed to more than hold her own against the professional actors. The rest of the family was played by CL students Jiro Bengzon, Dani de Leon and Gaita Masangkay.

* * *

THERE were family ensembles: Chinggoy Alonso performed excerpts from "Les Misérables" with children Elgin and Iris while RJ Jacinto and his band, including drummer daughter Nats, with Anto Garcellano and Jovie Jacinto, performed "Father and Son," the anthem to the generation gap. Grace Nono and Bob Aves performed two ethnic numbers, with a dance from daughter Tao, even if Tao is already a freshman at the Philippine High School for the Arts. Ria Villena, who introduced herself as "batang CL," and daughter of Mel and Nori, sang a composition of her mother's, then blew everyone away with "Time after Time." Of course, there was also the "Parents Choir," composed of CL mothers Mayang Pascual, Choy Norona, Aleli Salazar, Bernie Marcelino, Sharlene Benedicto and Suzette Bautista. Together with the mothers, two students—Anya Madrilejo and Miya David—performed a ballet number, but then I promised to keep quiet about that (darn!).

Friends of CL lent a hand as well: Susan Fernandez, DV8, and Noel Cabangon, who has been such a fixture at CL affairs I thought all along his children were students.

Two student performers deserve a special mention. Melissa Camba, who sang a duet with Susan, astonished everyone with her clear, confident singing. Chino Gutierrez, a prodigy in every sense, made the entire CL family proud with his violin pieces: "Uunahin ko Kayo" (accompanying Melissa and Susan), and "Gypsy Air," a complex and difficult piece which really demonstrated the size of his talent.

* * *

BUT in the end, it was the children who stole the show. The children of the COL Choir, as well as the dancers, drew thunderous applause not just for the quality of their singing and dancing, but for their stage presence, composure and, best of all, the obvious energy and enthusiasm they brought to performing.

One of the things I most enjoyed about the MDF was not in the show itself, but in the souvenir program. A section, entitled "Where in the world are the COLF alumni?" featured letters, comments and e-mail messages from young people who had been at one time or another part of the CL family. From a young artist, newly married and starting a career in Arizona, to the founder of a popular website for Filipino teens; from the school's first elementary graduate, now a broadcast graduate from UP, to many other high school and college students—all were one in enthusing about the "small" school's profound influence on their lives.

The most memorable entry is from Michael Albano, who went on to the Philippine Science High School and is now an engineering student at UP. "You can get an education somewhere...," he said, "but in CL, I was loved. That is what all kids need."

To Community of Learners—for loving our children, and giving them a loving sense of themselves, in turn—a loving salute from this parent, and many thanks for putting up a great show!

Terrorism and paranoia

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IT is becoming clear that the purpose of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was not so much to kill thousands of Americans as to shatter the very foundations of American society by permanently subjecting it to the threat of relentless terrorism.

Far more injurious in the long term than the acts of terrorism that people will actually see or experience are the menacing images that a paranoid imagination can assemble. They are the terrorist's most lethal weapons. All that is needed to trigger them in a period of heightened alert is a series of demonstration cases. The anthrax letters, of which there have not been actually more than half a dozen, are perfect examples of how terror begins and spreads globally.

Its effects are limited only by the imagination. It can paralyze entire societies. It breeds distrust and paranoia. It conditions people to accept routine invasions on their privacy and restrictions on their liberties. People find themselves setting aside their educated beliefs to give vent to dormant prejudices. They lose their cheer, they find themselves caught in the tide of conflicting opinions and emotions, and soon they blame their government both for scaring them and for not doing enough to protect them.

Terrorism's real kick is reserved for the aftermath. When the grief and the outrage have subsided, and the thirst for vengeance has been quenched, the emotions begin to turn inward. Terrorism then awakens existing insecurities and resentments. Fear begets its own monsters the way the human body honors imagined infections by actually activating its physiological defenses. Anyone who handles a package or letter laced with nothing more dangerous than talcum powder will, from now on, likely experience itchiness. Some may even show blisters. The mind will imagine anthrax spores lurking in every envelope.

This is the ancient power of suggestion, the basis of all psychosomatic disorders. In an age of media spectacles, we can begin to understand how the world will be stopped not by anthrax, cholera or small pox, but by paranoia.

At no other time has the sociologist W.I. Thomas' dictum been truer than now: "When men define their situations as real, they tend to be real in their consequences." It didn't matter that witches did not exist in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692. That year, its residents launched frantic witch-hunts and actually "found" and condemned "witches" on the basis of ridiculous proof. The term "witch-hunt" became part of the vocabulary of moral panic and, in another epoch, came to refer to the persecution of suspected communists.

Today, its targets are the suspected terrorists. Unlike the "witches" of the 17th century, terrorists are real and dangerous, and the much-publicized personal profiles of the Sept. 11 hijackers, some of whom had lived quiet lives in middle-class America, provide ample reason to search one's own neighborhood. Profiling on the basis of race and religion has already begun, and Muslims and Middle Eastern-looking persons are its victims.

What makes America a vibrant and self-renewing country is the enormous capacity of its social order to form a community of conscience from a multiplicity of cultures. At the base of this capacity is its tolerance of difference. Today, the survival of this ethos is very much in doubt.

Because of Sept. 11, America has had to review those background understandings of everyday life that until that fateful day in September had made it possible for its citizens to claim privacy and feel secure in their personal pursuits. Today America is a nation, the philosopher Richard Rorty says, that is being "accustomed to people in uniform roaring in, closing down buildings and public spaces, and arresting suspicious-looking people, without advance warning." US authorities justify these intrusions as the precautionary measures of a nation at war. But this is going to be worse than war, argues Rorty. "Wars have aims that might someday be achieved, thus bringing about an end to hostilities, but terrorism has no such aims. The object of terror is terror."

The best way to fight terrorism is by isolating and pinning down its perpetrators, while denying them the satisfaction of believing that they are achieving their objective of sowing panic and powerlessness among the population. The worst way to respond to terrorism is by instituting measures that attack the civil liberties of ordinary individuals, and magnifying every instance of a terrorist attack. While it is the duty of the state to warn citizens of the extent of the danger they face and to instruct them on how to deal with it, it must do so without creating the very state of panic it seeks to dispel.

The conduct of the mass media is very crucial. They must stop sensationalizing reports of suspected terrorist attacks. They must report the bare facts and not magnify them. They must get accurate assessments from the authorities rather than frenzied sound bites from supposed victims. Beyond this, by cautiously choosing the tone they use in reporting the news, they may promote a basic commonsense and a calm disposition that people need to have in order to survive terrorist attacks and terror itself.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Congress slapping incident

ON NOV. 13, 2000, then San Juan Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez slapped House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic in the face at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives. This happened during the commotion that broke out in the House after Speaker Manuel Villar transmitted the Articles of Impeachment against former President Joseph Estrada to the Senate.

The House ethics committee voted to reprimand Gonzalez in a meeting last Jan. 10 with 16 members present. Six committee members who considered the penalty too light walked out of the closed-door session. They charged that the other members had broken a "gentleman's agreement" to expel Gonzalez. Seven voted in favor of a reprimand while three abstained.

Fabic, a retired Army general, filed a complaint with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. Gonzalez, however, failed to appear and submit his counteraffidavit.

Assistant City Prosecutor Ronald Ancheta said Fabic had not done anything wrong to provoke Gonzalez hitting him. Thus, a criminal case for grave slander by deed was filed with the city's Metropolitan Trial Court on April 23, 2001. The case went to the sala of Judge Cesar Untalan of Branch 39.

On May 17, the court issued a warrant for Gonzalez's arrest. He was arrested a week later, but was released on the same day after paying the recommended bail of P6,000.

Gonzalez filed a motion to quash last July 26. He argued that the criminal information does not conform substantially with the prescribed form.

On Aug. 6, the court denied the motion for utter lack of merit.

The former lawmaker pleaded not guilty when arraigned on Aug. 28.

Case status: The pre-trial was conducted last Oct. 16.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

What makes a scandal?

THE POWER to conduct investigations "in aid of legislation" has brought the political circus to pitch camp on the Senate grounds almost permanently. Before the Senate has even recovered from the melee over the probe into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged links with organized crime, an all-opposition panel has started a new investigation, this time into the alleged misuse of government charity funds by the First Gentleman, Mike Arroyo. The methods used are by now familiar: an explosive privilege speech, a Senate probe, a tainted but engaging source. But what about the evidence? A comparison of the Teofisto Guingona-Chavit Singson and Ping Lacson-Robert Rivero events (almost exactly a year apart) shows the Senate's standards have gone down, rather than up.

Maybe it's time to update the old saying. History repeats itself, yes: first as tragedy, then as farce, then as a Senate inquiry.

I accuse!

Privilege speech of then-Sen. Teofisto Guingona
Delivered on October 5, 2000 at the Senate

I ACCUSE Joseph Ejercito Estrada, President of the Republic of the Philippines, of betraying public trust. The people especially the poor reposed in him the trust that he would protect them from illegal gambling. Instead it appears that shortly after he assumed office in 1998 he entered into an arrangement with Messrs. Bong Pineda, Atong Ang and Governor Luis Singson to further institutionalize jueteng. In October 1998, President Estrada designated Luis Singson to make the collections of the jueteng operations and to deliver a substantial portion of the amount personally to him. Since November 1998 to August 2000, Luis Singson delivered to him an average amount of P10 million a month.

I accuse Joseph Ejercito Estrada, President of the Republic of the Philippines, of graft and corruption. Documents show that shortly after assuming office in 1998 the President asked for a portion from releases of funds allocated for Ilocos Sur under R.A. 7171, a law that sets aside a portion of excise taxes for the Virginia-tobacco producing provinces. After the DBM released the amount of P200 million, the President received P70 million out of said release, contrary to law.

I accuse Joseph Ejercito Estrada, President of the Republic of the Philippines, for violating his own oath of office to enforce the law, of violating the strict mandate of the Constitution against conflict of interest because he prejudiced public interest by purportedly releasing public funds for a public purpose when the real intent was to siphon off a substantial portion for personal ends, of violating the prohibition in the Constitution against participation in business during his tenure as President. When he made arrangements to get money from jueteng collections, the same was not only illegal participation in an illegal business, it was also an enforced extraction in exchange for illegal protection accorded jueteng operators.

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues—I hold in my hand the documents to sustain the charges. In the national interest therefore I ask that the same be referred to the Blue Ribbon Committee and the Committee on Justice to conduct the needed investigation pursuant to pertinent provisions of the Constitution and the statutes relevant thereto.

The people deserve to know the truth, they need to know who is accountable and why. We have a duty to perform. Let us do so without fear or favor.

In the anatomy of a scandal, the role of a Senate probe is critical. It attracts tainted but essential witnesses—all promising to tell the whole truth.

PAGE DESIGN BY MARLONE RUBIO/
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gloria's underground department

Excerpts from the privilege speech
of Sen. Panfilo Lacson
Delivered on October 3, 2001 at the Senate

THERE is a new dangerous office in government today. It is the first of its kind in our history. It is the Department of the Underground. And I rise to forewarn the Senate of the Republic and the Filipino People.

...The Department of the Underground has no parallels in history. Its Secretary does not only share the President's bed. He more than shares her power of government.

...The Department of the Underground, Mr. President, has become the most inventive, creative and innovative agency of grease, graft and corruption. Its expertise is to broker crooked deals and win them. Its excellence is to assign cronies to positions of power and make money out of them. Its essence is to make the First Gentleman an honorable person before the camera. And off camera, it is to bring him the juicy slices of the bureaucracy.

Mr. President, what can be more juicy than the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office? There is no mad cow disease to avoid. There is all cash cow to satisfy the Honorable Miguel T. Arroyo.

Mr. Arroyo is not an accountable officer of government. This we already know. But he surely knows how to count his cash. Without fear of being cowed by anyone.

At the behest of Secretary Mike Arroyo during the May election, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office—in silver platters of unmatched charity—disbursed millions of pesos. This was to ensure the victory of Mr. Arroyo's friends. It was also to hit a second bird—that of projecting to the Filipino People the power of the Arroyo Administration for good governance.

On paper, the money was to be used to air radio spots to promote the charities of the PCSO and its lotto madness in the Visayas and Mindanao. But the real intention was pure political propaganda—radio interviews, favorable commentaries, partisan media releases—for Mr. Arroyo's candidates.

In the course of the campaign, the four beneficiary-candidates were regularly briefed and updated on the media campaign. They were informed of the frequency of their campaign jingles and news releases. They were informed of schedules for interviews.

Above all, they were made to know who the godfather was—the Honorable Miguel Tuason Arroyo.

The cover of disbursement, Mr. President, was made in the form of multi-million advertising contracts.

But that is only the tip of the payola iceberg.

Mr. President, now you can weep. The venerable PCSO—at the commanding behest of the Honorable Miguel T. Arroyo—approved into motion and pumped into action an advertising budget of P250 million. I thought this Administration was starved of cash!

Chavit's affidavit

I, LUIS C. Singson, of legal age and with postal address at 2nd Floor, LCS Building, South Superhighway, San Andres cor. Diamante Sts., Manila, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, depose and state that:

1. I am the Governor of the Province of Ilocos Sur

2. I have known and have been a friend of President Joseph E. Estrada long before he became the President; in fact, I have been his friend during his early term as Mayor of San Juan. Aside from being friends, we have been *compadres*. I am the godfather of one of his children and he is the godfather of one of my children.

3. Sometime in August 1998, I was summoned to the house of President Estrada at Polk Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. When I arrived in the house of President Estrada, Bong Pineda and Charles "Atong" Ang were present. In behalf of the latter, during this meeting, they discussed the jueteng operations all over the country. In the course of the meeting, President Estrada instructed Bong Pineda not to go to Malacañang and deliver money since he has been close to him from the time the President was still the Vice President and Head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime unit. He instructed us that henceforth, Bong Pineda should deliver the money intended for the President through Atong Ang and myself.

4. In the late part of October 1998, I was instructed by President Estrada to take over the duties of Atong Ang regarding the jueteng operations in the country. Complying with his instructions, starting November 1998, I took over from Atong Ang and I normally collected about P32 to 35 million a month. Out of this amount, I personally handed to President Estrada most of the time in his Malacañang office or his other houses which I will identify in due time, the amount of P5 million every 15 days or P10 million every month.

In addition, I was instructed by President Estrada to deposit the balance of my collections in my bank and to wait for his instructions. In order to supervise and audit my collections, President Estrada assigned Yolanda Ricaforte, wife of Tourism Undersecretary Ricaforte, to be his auditor, holding office in my office at the LCS Bldg, San Andres Bukid, Manila.

5. On or about the first week of August 1999, President Estrada instructed me to transfer the accumulated deposits in my account to Yolanda Ricaforte. I complied with his instructions and turned over the accumulated deposits amounting to P123 million to Mrs. Ricaforte, who in turn deposited the same to various accounts in Equitable Bank. A summary is herewith attached and made integral part hereof as Annex "A."

6. Sometime this year, the President instructed Yolanda Ricaforte to transfer P200 million to his account but with the specific instruction to transfer said amount to different accounts before finally depositing it to a designated account of his choice.

7. I have been remitting to President Estrada the aforesaid amounts regularly from November 1998 to August 2000.

8. I am executing this affidavit to attest to the truth of the foregoing.

Further sayeth naught.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of September 2000 at Manila.

Rivero's affidavit *(excerpts)*

I, ROBERT Fronda Rivero, of legal age, Filipino, married, with address at Unit 1026 Cityland 9, Dela Rosa Street, Palanan, Makati City, under oath, hereby depose and state:

1. Funds of the (PCSO) were used to finance the publicity/media campaign of senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition (PPC) in the May 2001 elections upon the behest of Atty. Mike Arroyo...with the full knowledge of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo...

2. The PCSO's funds have also been used by the present administration, with the full knowledge of President Arroyo, to bolster political support for her administration.

3. I met Atty. Arroyo sometime in 1995 after then Senator Arroyo's reelection. At that time, I was a reporter of the Radio Mindanao Network...assigned to cover the Senate beat. I developed a professional and personal relationship with the Arroyos due to my support for Senator Arroyo by giving her continuous media exposure and coordinating these efforts with Atty. Arroyo.

4. My involvement with the Arroyos increased when I helped Atty. Arroyo in his media/public relations campaign for President Arroyo when she ran for the vice-presidency in 1998. In fact, when I got married in 1999, then Vice President Arroyo was one of the principal sponsors at my wedding.

Talking points

THE SIMILARITIES are striking. A senator rises "on a matter of personal privilege" and proceeds to lay down the gauntlet against a sitting administration. The Senate invokes its constitutional power to launch an investigation "in aid of legislation." A flawed character (necessarily tainted, to explain his inside access) steps into the spotlight he seems to have been born for. As with Guingona and Singson, so it is with Lacson and Rivero. Should we expect an impeachment proceeding and then a change of government to follow?

If we are to base the answer on the quality of the privilege speeches alone, the answer can only be an unambiguous No.

The privilege speech of Guingona's, which President Macapagal has herself credited for starting the political groundswell that uprooted President Joseph Estrada and planted her in the Palace, is printed in its entirety. The printed version of Lacson's speech (about the same number of words as Guingona's) is only about half the length of the original. And yet it is clear which speech contains more meat.

"I accuse Joseph Ejercito Estrada, President of the Republic of the Philippines, of betraying public trust," Guingona starts simply enough. The allusion, of course, is to Emile Zola's famous assertion in the Dreyfus case. But Guingona does not stop there. He accuses Estrada of three more specific charges: graft and corruption, violating the oath of office to enforce the law, violating the Constitutional stricture against conflict of interest. And then he "proves" the charges with specific examples of illegal activity.

What he is doing is clear enough: he is laying the legal groundwork for an impeachment case. What is the point of merely smearing a popular President, after all? Anything less than an impeachment case will demean Guingona's sensational charges—hence the simple construction and the constitutional language.

Contrast this with Lacson's entertaining, sound-bite driven speech. He uses media-savvy phrases: no parallels in history, the Department of the Underground, the President's bed, and so on. And his main argument against Mike Arroyo's Department of the Underground makes for great audio: "Its essence is to make the First Gentleman an honorable person before the camera. And off camera, it is to bring him the juicy slices of the bureaucracy."

Witty stuff for the cocktail circuit, but hardly the stuff out of which great legal cases are made. "Juicy slices" does not argue the case for legal, much less Senate, action—but it does make for good copy.

And there's the rub, to use a phrase which Lacson's speechwriters must be familiar with. The use of Shakespearean effects throughout the speech—the reiteration of the word "Honorable" recalling Mark Anthony's famous dig at Brutus, the injunction to the Senate President ("Mr. President, now you can weep") dragging yet another allusion from "Julius Caesar," and so on—leads to the following possible conclusion. The speech is vivid in language because it is vague on the evidence.

Does this seem too harsh? Guingona's speech offers an answer. The sponsoring senator did not waste his time on flourishes of style, because he had the goods on the President. There is nothing in his speech to indicate that it was Singson who was his source, but that it was Singson there is no longer any doubt. The evidence bears him out.—*J. Nery*

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Anthrax fear widens

Same strains used in attacks, probers say

WASHINGTON—Authorities around the world struggled with more bioterrorism scares on Friday and Washington warned that more anthrax attacks were possible as two more cases of skin anthrax were confirmed.

Tracking clues for the outbreak of eight confirmed cases of anthrax infection in the United States, investigators revealed that the same strains were used in attacks in Washington, New York and Florida, suggesting they came from a single source.

They also said the FBI had narrowed down their search and identified a mailbox where letters that contained anthrax were mailed from.

Meanwhile, a female employee of the New York Post tabloid, owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., and a second New Jersey postal worker were the latest people to test positive for the less dangerous skin anthrax.

The Post is the fourth media organization in New York to be hit by the disease after NBC News, ABC News and CBS News—all within the last week.

The second postal worker is believed to have come into contact with anthrax-laced mail sent to Congress and the NBC News with the postmark from Trenton, New Jersey.

He was being treated at a Pennsylvania hospital, state health officials said on Friday.

On Thursday, a woman who worked at a satellite office to the Trenton Main Post Office and delivered mail to a Trenton suburb tested positive for skin anthrax.

The two new cases bring to eight the number of people so far infected in the United States. One of them died after inhaling bacteria, another man has the inhaled form of the disease, and four others have the skin infection.

The New York Times said on Friday in an e-mail to employees that its reporter in Rio de Janeiro had received a letter that tested positive for spores "consistent with anthrax." No other details were available.

In Florida, health officials said "minuscule" amounts of anthrax spores were found at two post offices in Palm Beach County that handled mail for the tabloid whose employee died of anthrax, but that no one seemed to be at risk.

Washington tried to reassure an anxious public that everyone at risk was being treated but fears grew of a broad bioterrorism attack moving beyond US borders in retaliation for almost two weeks of US-led air raids on Afghanistan.

Nairobi reported the first confirmed case of exposure to the potentially deadly bacteria outside the United States on Thursday, from a contaminated letter received from Atlanta, Georgia. That was followed by a "probable" case in Argentina.

"These incidents again show that the threat of terrorism is worldwide," Johnnie Carson, US ambassador to Kenya, said in a statement. "American assistance and support will be made available to help protect Kenyans from bioterrorism."

Two suspicious letters sent to the United Nations in Kenya were tested for anthrax on Friday but the result was negative. Results were still awaited from two sent to other addresses.

Many Kenyans fear the anthrax comes from extremists loyal to Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, blamed by Washington for a 1998 bomb attack on the US Embassy in Nairobi as well as for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said there were no links between the country and the US anthrax scare.

More attacks possible

US President George W. Bush's new Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said in Washington on Friday there was no evidence that the anthrax found in mail had been "weaponized," but acknowledged that more attacks were possible.

"I wish I could tell you that we have seen the end of it, but obviously we are prepared for more. That's why we have increased the supply of antibiotics and that's why we are pursuing every lead as aggressively as possible," Ridge told a news conference.

He assured the nation that water supplies, power plants and dams were being guarded, and announced the formation of a new task force and grants to strengthen local preparedness.

The US government has offered a $1 million reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for mailing anthrax.

Bush has not ruled out the possibility that Bin Laden could be behind the outbreak. At a news conference with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Shanghai, he also raised the possibility of homegrown terrorism.

Widespread scares

Elsewhere anthrax scares spread, with buildings in Britain, Peru, Fiji and the Netherlands evacuated as suspicious mail was rushed for tests.

In Berlin, officials took the unusual step of announcing that vote tellers in the city's elections on Sunday would be given masks and plastic gloves to protect themselves.

Britain's parliament delayed its opening by an hour after a package containing white powder was found in the heart of the House of Commons, the first time in recent memory the "Mother of Parliaments" had been disrupted by a security alert.

Parts of the nearby health ministry were evacuated after another suspect package was found.

In The Hague and Berlin, the offices of the Dutch prime minister and the German chancellor were evacuated for two hours to investigate envelope containing white powder.

Sickened by a flood of hoax anthrax letters, French courts have packed people off to jail or fined them in an attempt to stem disruption caused by pranksters and cranks.

In the former Soviet republic of Belarus, the interior ministry said a teacher had been arrested for sending a colleague a letter containing white powder signed "From Mister Bin Laden," confessing later she did it for a joke.

In Lima, Peru's biggest telecoms company said it had evacuated its headquarters after receiving an envelope sent from the United States containing unidentified powder.

The US and Australian embassies in Sri Lanka also received suspicious mail, and in Fiji, a suspicious letter sent to the US Embassy was being tested and staff who handled it were given antibiotics, the US State Department said. *Reuters*

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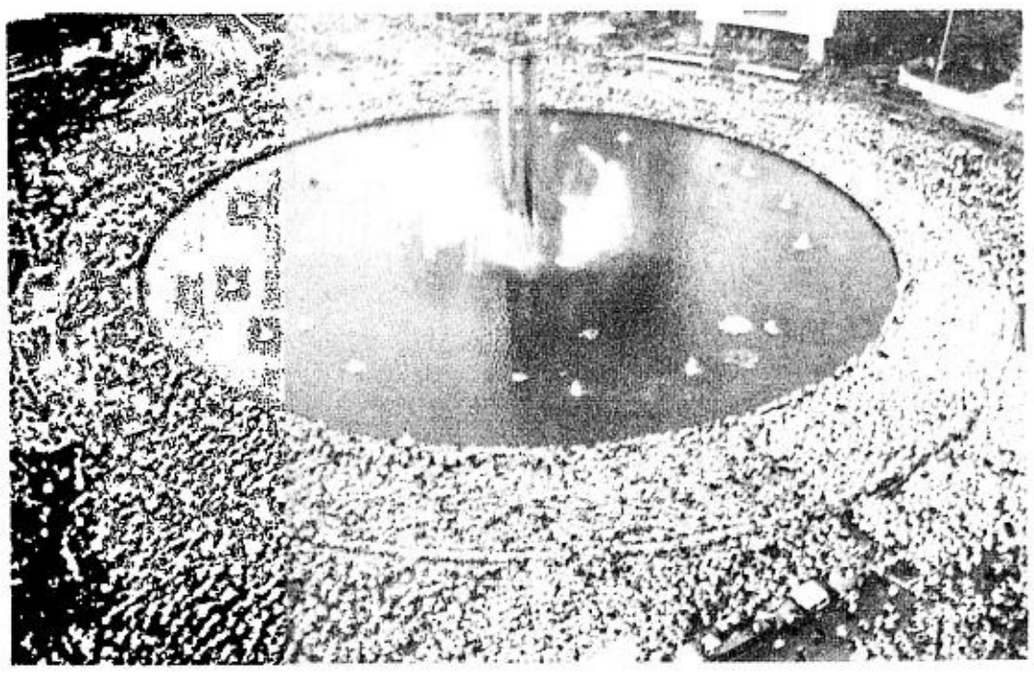
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
The WORLD

Asian Muslims rage against US-led attacks



INDONESIAN Muslims march around the main roundabout in central Jakarta Oct. 19 during a protest against the US-led strikes on Afghanistan. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD—Thousands of Muslims staged largely peaceful anti-US protests across Asia on Friday, the day of prayer, as US aircraft pounded Afghanistan for the 13th day over the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim populated nation, 10,000 turned out in Jakarta for the country's biggest demonstration to date, while tight security at demonstrations around Pakistan prevented the sort of violence which marred protests on the Muslim Holy Day there last week.

Anti-US crowds also protested in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka and in Indian-administered Kashmir.

In Pakistan, one of the Muslim countries most at risk of destabilization during the US-led assault on alleged Islamic terrorists in neighboring Afghanistan, up to 10,000 radicals attended a demonstration in Peshawar.

It was well below the 50,000 who had been expected, after police blocked off all roads leading into the northwest city.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of the main fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party, led the demonstration as other smaller rallies were staged in cities across the country after Friday prayers, the favored time for demonstrations.

He warned the military government here to change its policy of logistical and intelligence cooperation with the US-led air strikes against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan or face a mass protest movement.

In Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, the scene of violent protests a week ago, witnesses reported 4,000 people had gathered for a peaceful demonstration.

In the southwest town of Quetta, where violent anti-US rallies have also been staged, more than 2,000 police and paramilitary personnel were on the streets, but witnesses there said only a few thousand protesters had gathered.

Last Friday, tens of thousands of Islamic demonstrators rampaged through Karachi, shooting and throwing stones at police as anger over the US attacks against Afghanistan's Taliban regime exploded into violence.

In Indonesia an estimated ten thousand Muslims flooded the heart of Jakarta in the largest protest so far against the US-led attacks.

Chanting, singing and drum-beating protesters—mostly from the Muslim-based Justice Party—brought traffic to a standstill as they marched through the city center behind a huge banner reading "Stop War-Save Afghanistan."

Vice President Hamzah Haz earlier pleaded for an end to protests, saying they were wrecking the country's already fragile economy.

"If our friends want to help our brothers in Afghanistan, help them by sending medicine and prayers," he said.

In Dhaka, thousands of Muslims staged the biggest protest seen yet in Bangladesh against the US-led strikes, with some burning effigies of US President George W. Bush. *AFP*

Anthrax: Detection hard but treatment easy

WASHINGTON—Seven people in the United States have tested positive for anthrax infections while dozens of cases of exposures have been reported, causing fear and anxiety about a disease that before the Sept. 11 attacks was extremely rare in the United States.

The language and terminology surrounding anthrax can be confusing, and experts have complained about misleading statements in the media and by some of those involved, including senators and members of Congress.

Anthrax is caused by a bacterium known as Bacillus anthracis. Bacilli are rod-shaped bacteria.

When they are not actively infecting a living body, they move into a dormant stage known as a spore. These hard-shelled spores have been known to survive for as long as 100 years.

Anthrax is normally a disease found in animals that graze and pick up the spores out of the soil.

The spores can be inhaled, activated by the warm, wet interior of the lungs. In humans, this form of the disease is the most deadly because it starts out looking like a cold or flu but rapidly progresses to pneumonia or meningitis and if untreated it kills 90 percent of its victims.

Most common

Spores can also work their way into a cut or scrape and cause an infection known as cutaneous anthrax. This is the most common form, and in humans it kills 20 percent of victims if they are not treated with antibiotics. Distinctive black scabs form, thus the name anthracis, which comes from the Greek word for coal.

A third type of infection known as gastro-intestinal anthrax is found in infected meat or when the spores are otherwise swallowed.

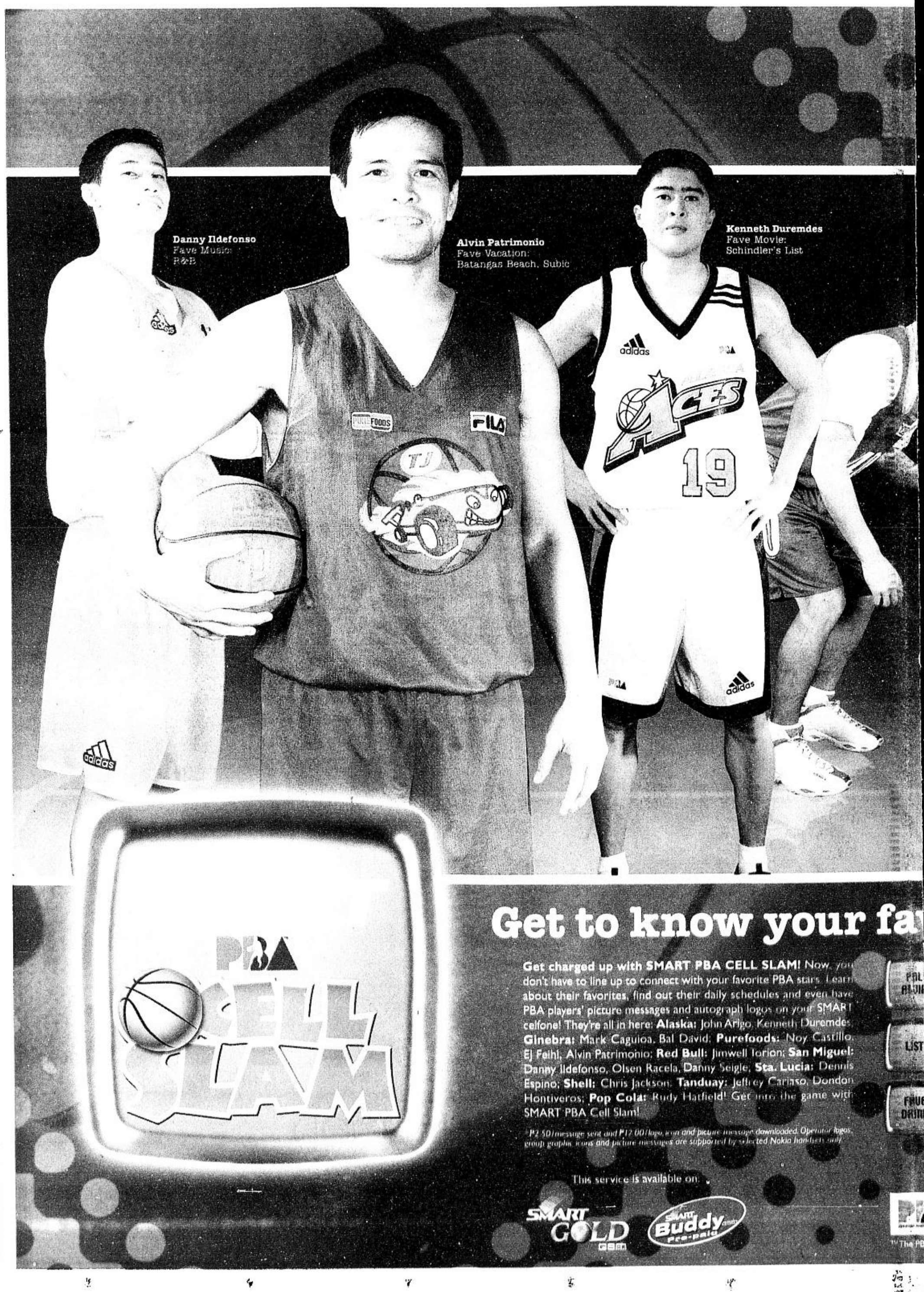
In all three cases the spores need somewhere damp and warm to become active, and a dose of several thousand microscopic spores is needed to cause an infection. The spores cannot be seen by the naked eye.

When an infected animal dies and its body rots, the bacteria return to the soil and revert to spore form until they are picked up by another animal.

If spores are found on a person—in the nose, for instance—the person has been exposed.

A person is not infected unless the spores have been activated, which can be tested by culturing a lesion on the skin or by checking the blood for antibodies against anthrax, for the bacteria or for the toxins that anthrax produces.

Anthrax is not contagious and the spores can be washed away with soap and water. Experts suggest that anyone who may have been exposed take a bath, and at least thoroughly wash their hands and face. *Reuters*



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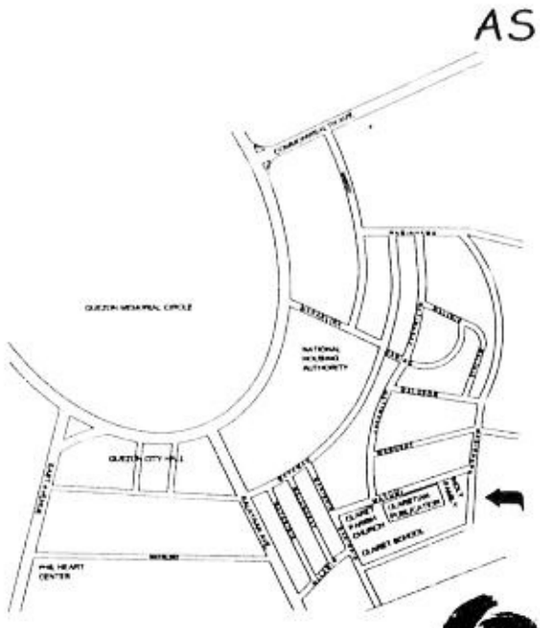

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N. Korea seen facing another year of hunger

SEOUL—North Korea's grain harvest for 2001 is expected to be around average but the communist state would again face one million tons of food shortage next year, an official said here Saturday.

"Despite a severe dry spell in spring, North Korea's grain production for this year is expected to be around average," the senior government official said on condition of anonymity.

He said the dry spell lasting from March until June affected the yield of barley, wheat, and potatoes.

But the rice harvest in fall is better than average because of good weather from July to August, he said.

North Korea usually produces three million tons of grain every year.

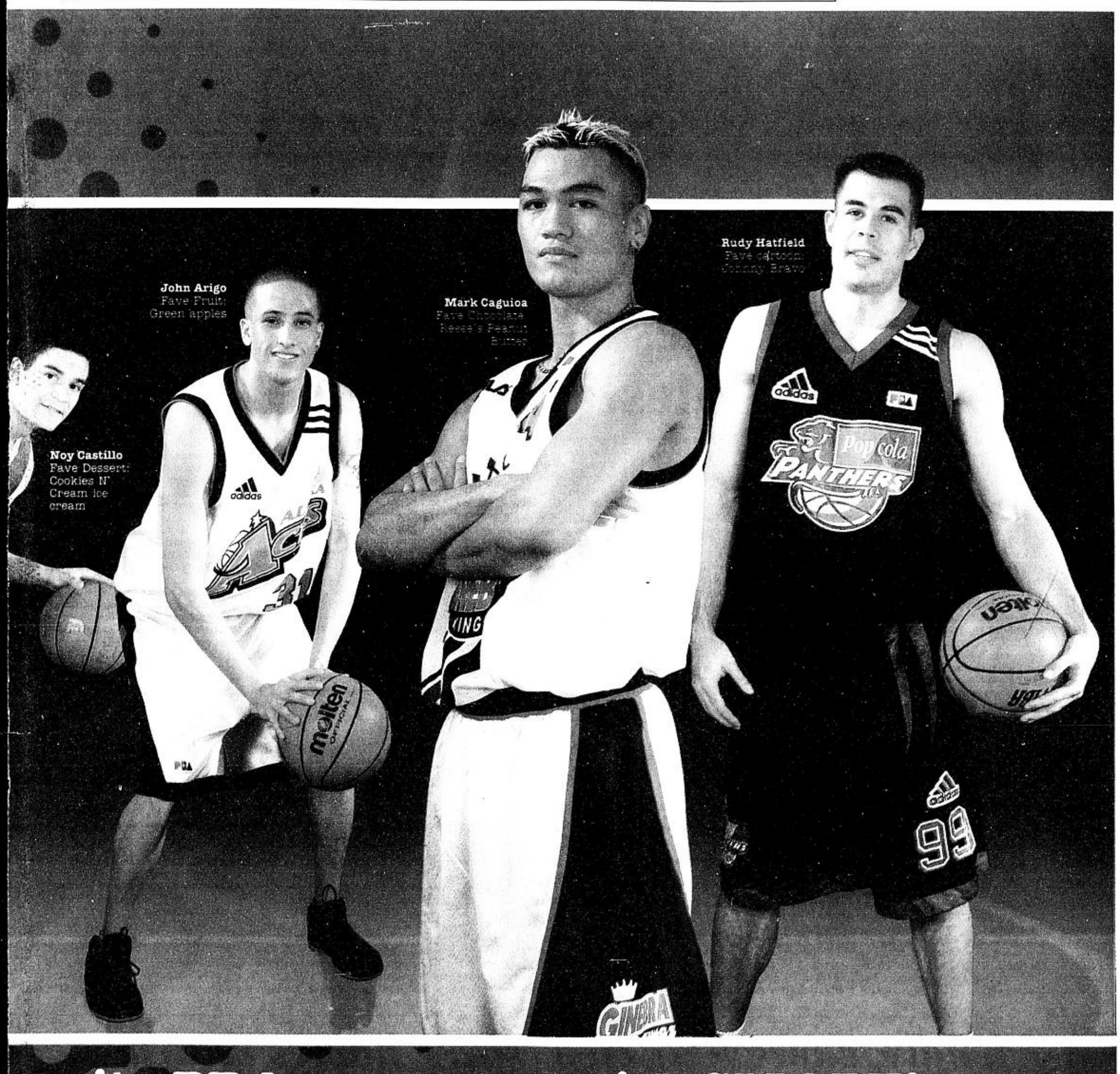
"Even after taking into account outside help, next year's food shortages in the North would be one million tons," he said.

North Korea, where millions have been hit by starvation and malnutrition, may never become self-sufficient in food, the top United Nations food official said in August.

North Korea will need to improve its economy drastically to earn the hard currency to buy food oversens, but even that prospect is a long way off, said World Food Program executive director Catherine Bertini.

The World Food Program, which has provided aid to North Korea for the past six years, now reaches about 7.6 million people, or about one-third of the country's population of 23 million.

It has called for a record 810,000 tons of international aid to help feed North Koreans this year, and has so far found more than 90 percent from donor nations such as the United States, Japan and South Korea. *AFP*



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Fifth body recovered from Ehime Maru

HONOLULU—The Navy plans to take the families of nine Japanese men and boys killed in the sinking of the Ehime Maru to the site where divers have now recovered more than half the bodies.

Divers on Friday found a fifth body aboard the vessel sunk by a US submarine as the city medical examiner's office identified two other crew members of the Ehime Maru.

Toshimichi Furuya and Toshiya Sakashima were the third and fourth victims of the collision to be located since Navy divers began searching the wreckage Monday.

Four teenage boys and five men are believed to have gone down with the ship after it was struck by the USS Greeneville 14 km south of Diamond Head on Feb. 9. Twenty-six people were rescued.

Furuya, 47, was the Ehime Maru's chief engineer. Sakashima, 17, was a student from Uwajima Fisheries High School.

Earlier in the week, divers recovered the bodies of 17-year-old student Katsuya Nomoto and 60-year-old Hirotaka Segawa, the ship's chief radio operator.

Drowning

The medical examiner determined the cause of death in each case was drowning.

The fifth body was to be brought to the surface later Friday.

Family members of four of the dead have arrived in Honolulu, with the rest expected by early next week, said Lt. Cmdr. Neil Sheehan, the liaison to the families.

Plans were being made to take the families to the recovery site. They were also to meet with Rear Adm. William Klemm, commander of the operation expected to take 33 days to complete.

During the first four days of the operation that began Monday, 67 dives were completed, with divers spending a total of 33 hours in the water, the Navy said.

In all, officials expect to find no more than seven bodies in the vessel that has been moved to shallow water near Honolulu after it sank in 600-meter-deep water about 24 km offshore.

The search of the wreckage has been hampered by up to 15 cm of sediment, which, when walked through or disturbed, can reduce normal visibility of about 1.8 meters to zero, said Lt. Cmdr. Gregg Baumann, spokesperson for the $60 million operation.

"We have had some slowdown due to visibility," he said. "As such, we're having to do a little more hand-over-hand type of searching and that has slowed our search progress a little bit. But I wouldn't say that has significantly hampered our search effort or our overall schedule." *AP*

After Australia repels boat, another arrives

SYDNEY—Another boatload of asylum seekers was moored off Australia on Saturday, arriving about 12 hours after its electioneering prime minister claimed a victory in his fight against boat people by forcing a group back to Indonesia.

About 220 asylum seekers, most of whom say they are from Afghanistan, arrived off Australia's remote Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean overnight.

The group were intercepted by an Australian Navy frigate but defied orders not to enter Australian territorial waters, a spokesperson for Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said.

Ruddock said on Saturday there was no way the latest asylum seekers would set foot on Australian soil, reiterating Canberra's uncompromising stance which now sees it send boat people to Pacific islands for processing and which has given the government a major boost ahead of a Nov. 10 election.

"They won't be coming to the Australian mainland, that's a point I have made very clear," Ruddock told reporters.

"This group at the moment remains on the vessel. The vessel is moored off Christmas Island and we will make some decisions in relation to that shortly," he said.

About 200 mainly Iraqi boat people already on Christmas Island will be flown to Papua New Guinea's Manus Island next week. Australia has paid for the construction of an asylum processing center on Nauru, which is now close to full, and has done a similar deal with Papua New Guinea to its north.

It has also approached Fiji, Palau and Kiribati.

Prime Minister John Howard, widely criticized by human rights groups including the United Nations for turning back boat people, said on Friday his new policy was working after Australian troops boarded a ship and forced it back into Indonesian waters.

"For the first time . . . it represents a successful return of a vessel," said Howard, whose personal popularity has soared due to his opposition to boat people.

"There is evidence that the flow into the pipeline has slowed down, but there is still a backlog in Indonesia," he said.

Howard said people on board the boat were given humanitarian aid including a woman who gave birth to a child just before entering Australian territorial waters. *Reuters*

Congo talks collapse

ADDIS ABABA—Delegates at talks here on the future of the war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo will attempt Saturday to salvage the meeting after the government delegation walked out of what it described as a "masquerade."

A senior DRC team member said, after the walkout on Friday, that his government had decided to "to put an end to the masquerade taking place in Addis Ababa."

A key feature of a DRC ceasefire agreement signed in 1999, the so-called inter-Congolese dialogue here is meant to pave the way for new political solutions following a civil war that has pitted troops of President Joseph Kabila's government against foreign-backed rebel forces.

The Friday session was suspended after the Kinshasa team left the conference hall.

DRC Foreign Minister Leonard She Okitundu could not immediately confirm whether his delegation's departure was definitive or whether it might return to the conference table.

He said his team regretted that the required conditions for the conference had not been fulfilled, "particularly the basic question of participation."

The Addis Ababa talks opened on Monday with just 80 participants instead of the 330 initially foreseen.

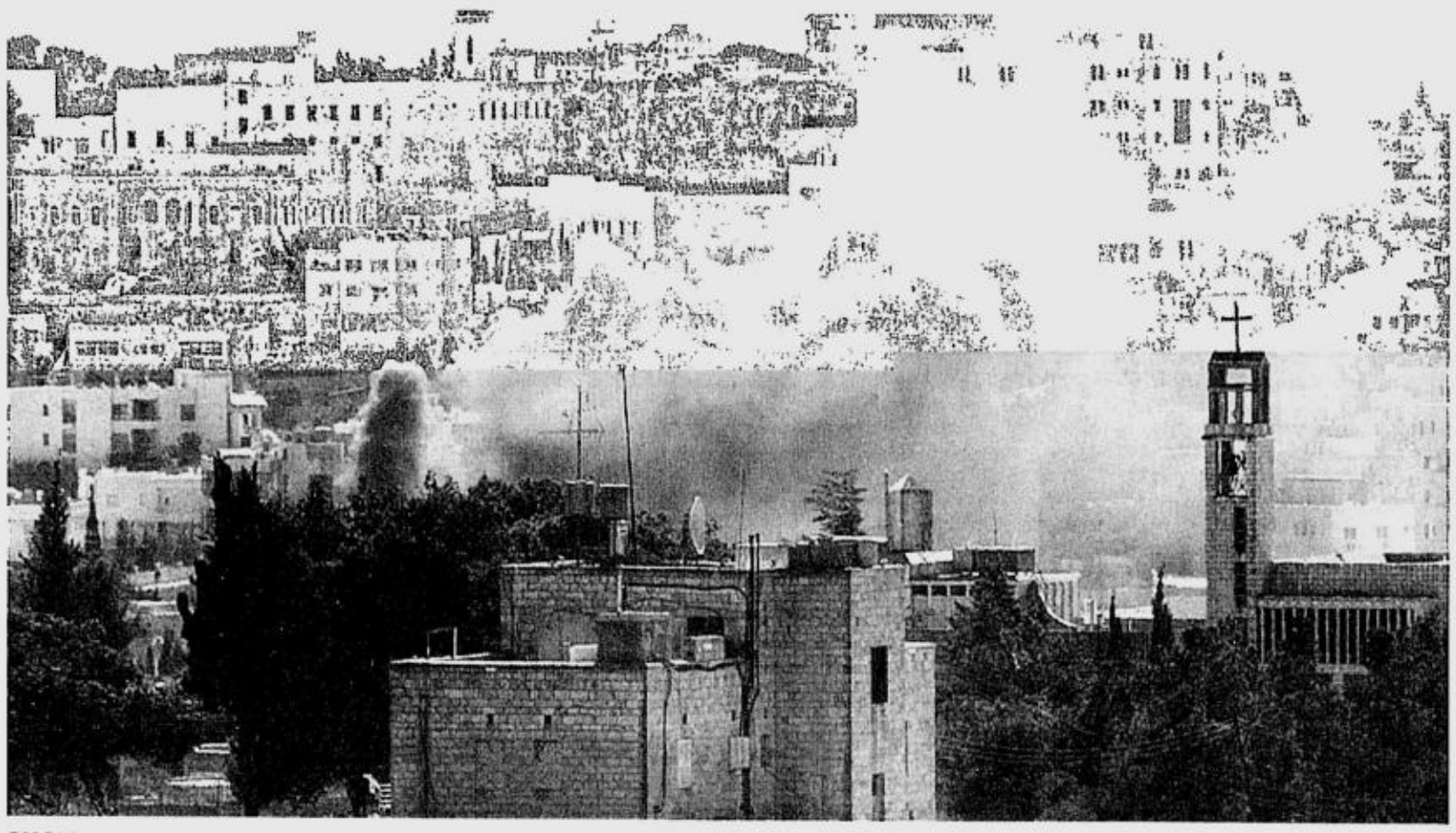
Mediator and former Botswana President Ketumile Masire announced that the plenary session would resume on Sunday, when he would present the results of consultations with the government delegation.

"As you may know, we have suspended our meeting for 48 hours because one of the five parties was absent . . ." Masire told a press conference.

"We thought it right to suspend the meeting and hold consultations (with the government team) to find out why they absented themselves," he added.

Under the terms of the 1999 ceasefire accord the inter-Congolese dialogue is meant to deliver a "new political dispensation," an army integrating rebel fighters and to pave the way for democratic elections as well as a new Constitution.

The DRC war began in August 1998, when rebels rose up with the backing of Uganda and Rwanda. Later troops from Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia were sent to help the government. *AFP*



SMOKE rises as Israeli tanks shell a position in the West Bank city of Bethlehem Oct. 19. Israeli tanks and troops entered the outskirts of the Palestinian-ruled city of Bethlehem after a surge in fighting following the assassination of a far-right Israeli Cabinet minister. REUTERS

Israel launches new deadly thrusts; 5 Palestinians killed

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops entered two more West Bank towns Saturday in what is shaping up as the broadest Israeli military operation in more than a year of fighting. Five Palestinians were killed, including a woman whose home was hit by a tank shell.

The incursions—six in three days—were triggered by the assassination of an Israeli Cabinet minister by Palestinian militants earlier this week. With the military action, Israel is trying to pressure the Palestinian Authority to arrest and hand over the assassins, and crack down on Palestinian militant groups.

The US State Department said Friday that the Israeli incursions "complicate the situation and should be halted."

The escalation threatens Washington's efforts to retain Arab and Muslim support for military action against Islamic militants suspected of having masterminded the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington. The United States is courting moderate Arab states and fears Israel-Palestinian violence could interfere.

At about 3 a.m. Saturday, Israeli tanks entered the towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, and set up positions on the rooftops of several homes.

Troops were met by Palestinian fire, and four Palestinians were killed in the fighting, doctors said. In the town of Beit Jalla, where troops set up positions on Friday, a 23-year-old Palestinian woman was Saturday killed when an Israeli tank shell hit her home, doctors said.

In Qalqilya, Israeli soldiers took over the two-story police headquarters, which Palestinian officers had left before the incursion, Palestinian security officials said.

Israeli soldiers arrested five activists Hamas activists, including four brothers of a man who had carried out a suicide bombing in Israel in 1994, Palestinian officials said. Two members of Force 17, a Palestinian security service, were also detained.

An Israeli government spokesperson, Arnon Perlman, said troops sealed Tulkarem and Qalqilya because of warnings that militants from the two towns were preparing to launch suicide attacks in Israel. Perlman said he had no further details.

Israeli officials would not say how long the troops will stay. "There is no ideological or strategic decision by the Israeli government to conquer these areas and stay there," Cabinet Minister Tsipi Livni told Israel radio Saturday. "Everything depends on . . . how the Palestinian Authority will react."

In addition to Qalqilya and Tulkarem, Israeli troops have entered and sealed the towns of Ramallah, Jenin, Bethlehem and Beit Jalla since Thursday. In Beit Jalla and Bethlehem, there were reports of new gun battles Saturday.

The incursions into Beit Jalla and Bethlehem were triggered by shooting on the Jewish neighborhood of Gilo, built on war-won land on the outskirts of Jerusalem. On Friday evening, Palestinians fired three mortar shells at Gilo, damaging cars but causing no injuries.

Israeli troops have repeatedly entered Palestinian towns in the past year, but the raids launched Thursday marked the broadest Israeli military strike so far.

In Ramallah, security officials said they arrested 12 activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the radical PLO faction that has claimed responsibility for the killing of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi. The arrests late Friday brought to 20 the number of PFLP activists in custody. It was not clear if any of the detainees were suspects in the Zeevi killing. *AP*

Japan rebuffs Peru on Fujimori

SHANGHAI, China—Japan has rebuffed Peruvian requests for a leaders' meeting to discuss the extradition of Peru's disgraced former president Alberto Fujimori, officials said Saturday.

"No meeting is planned," said Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo at a Pacific Rim meeting in Shanghai also being attended by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Peru sought a meeting between Toledo and Koizumi on the margins of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum, a Japanese foreign ministry official said.

"But given Koizumi's tight schedule during Apec, we are unable to set up a meeting with Peru," said the official, who declined to be named.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Diego Garcia Sayan said this week that Lima was urgently seeking a bilateral leaders' meeting in Shanghai to address Fujimori's fate.

Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants to Peru, has been living in Tokyo since November after fleeing a welter of corruption allegations that have since broadened to charges of complicity in murders of political opponents.

He has been granted Japanese nationality and Tokyo insists it cannot extradite a Japanese citizen by law. *AFP*

Vietnam priest draws 15 years

HANOI—Dissident Catholic priest Tadeus Nguyen Van Ly was sentenced to 15 years in jail for engaging in "activities to sabotage the government," the official media said Saturday.

Nguyen Van Ly, who had been arrested in May and charged with "violating his house-arrest provision" was sentenced Friday, the communist party organ, Nhan Dan said.

He is now required to spend five more years under house arrest after the completion of his jail term.

Prior to his formal arrest, Nguyen Van Ly had been held under house arrest as punishment for having passed on tracts denouncing repression of religious activity in Vietnam to a US panel on international religious freedom.

Hanoi had barred the priest from going to Washington in February to testify in person on violations of religious freedom in Vietnam.

Vietnam's official press had been calling for punitive measures against the priest to "immediately end his religious propaganda."

Since his arrest, Washington had been officially interceding with Hanoi, demanding his release and freedom of religion in Vietnam.

Vietnam firmly rejected the appeals, maintaining that the priest had violated local laws. *AFP*

Chinese yields biggest batch of fake Viagra

BEIJING—Officials in eastern China have seized what is being claimed as Asia's biggest batch of fake sex-enhancing Viagra pills.

Customs officials in Shanghai and Tianjin found 240,000 counterfeit Viagra pills last month and arrested a man, surnamed Li, who confessed he intended selling them, the Beijing Morning Post said Saturday.

A customs officer in Tianjin found 90,000 pills in the city and Shanghai officials found another 150,000 pills.

Both batches were linked to Li, who was arrested in the eastern city of Nanjing.

The pills had been declared by Li as "pearl calcium," but police said the shape and composition of the pills were similar to real Viagra.

Viagra maker Pfizer was quoted by the newspaper as saying it was the biggest case of fake Viagra in Asia.

China has a notorious reputation of churning out fake products, from Gucci handbags, to fake medicine and cooking oil. *AFP*

India, Pakistan resume mortar firing

JAMMU, India—Two people were injured after India and Pakistan resumed firing Friday along the ceasefire line in the disputed province of Kashmir that separates the South Asian nuclear rivals, police and local residents said.

Police sources said two men were injured in mortar fire about 8 km from the border town of Poonch, setting ablaze parts of the grassy Himalayan slopes in the area dotted with pine trees.

"There is heavy firing. We can see mortar fire from our rooftops," Ghulam Ahmed, a retired government official in the border area of Khadi Karmara in Indian-controlled Kashmir, said by telephone.

India has targeted its guns on the Pakistani Army this week, saying it is punishing its rival for letting Pakistan-based Islamic guerrillas sneak into Indian territory to carry out strikes against military camps.

Pakistan, which has in the past said it has no control over the rebels' movement, in turn attacked Indian positions Friday with artillery and smaller weapons fire from their side of the border.

Before the latest round of fighting erupted, Lal Krishna Advani, the home minister, ruled out the pursuit of Islamic militants across the mountainous frontier into Pakistani territory.

"Under international law, it is legitimate if anyone attacks you, you have the right to pursue. But at the present point of time, we have no plans to do that," he told the Foreign Correspondents' Club in New Delhi.

Poonch is located in a mountainous area about 220 km northwest of Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, where a bloody Islamic insurgency has raged since 1989.

Tensions have risen along the frontier this week, with heavy firing along the 1972 ceasefire line that divides the mountainous province between India and Pakistan.

Skirmishes earlier this week came as US Secretary of State Colin Powell was visiting the subcontinent in an attempt to shore up support for the US-led war on terrorism.

Although India says Pakistan is the main sponsor of terrorist groups in South Asia, Advani said India has no problem with the United States working with Pakistan to combat terrorist groups in Afghanistan. *AP*

Earth-friendly, energy-efficient straw homes return

BY MARK THIESSEN

DeWEESE, Nebraska—A 315-sq.-m. dream house is being built on the west bank of the Little Blue River with materials grown 15 meters away.

Construction does not depend on the ash, American elm or hackberry trees that line the meandering river in southern Nebraska. It instead relies on what remains of the wheat crop in surrounding farm fields.

Floyd Rhodes' new house will be made of straw.

The fill for the $300,000, three-bedroom house and its two garages is being harvested and baled just across a dusty county road that takes traffic into town off Nebraska Highway 14.

The idea of straw bale homes originated with European immigrants who lacked lumber on the southern Great Plains and turned to straw bale homes for shelter. Settlers in Nebraska's treeless Sandhills mostly relied on straw in the 1880s and still used the bales to make homes through the 1940s.

The post-World War II building boom and people's desires for homes that looked like their neighbor's brought an end to straw bale homes.

"People tend to want to build homes of the same type, cheap and fast," said Joyce Coppinger of the Strawbale Association of Nebraska. "They're still doing that."

But a revival of straw bale construction is taking place from Australia to Europe and across the United States, although it is more popular in the Southwest. It started about 12 years ago when a straw home was built in Tucson, Arizona, and interest spread to New Mexico and California, said Bruce King, a structural engineer in Sausalito, California.

"It tickles people's funny bones," King said.

Nonetheless, the fledgling industry experiences 30 percent growth each year.

"It is a very viable form of construction, and it's going to be mainstream in my lifetime," King said.

The revival is fueled by a growing desire for more earth-friendly, energy-efficient homes. Homes filled with the 18-inch thick, tightly packed bales of straw are better insulated than traditionally built homes.

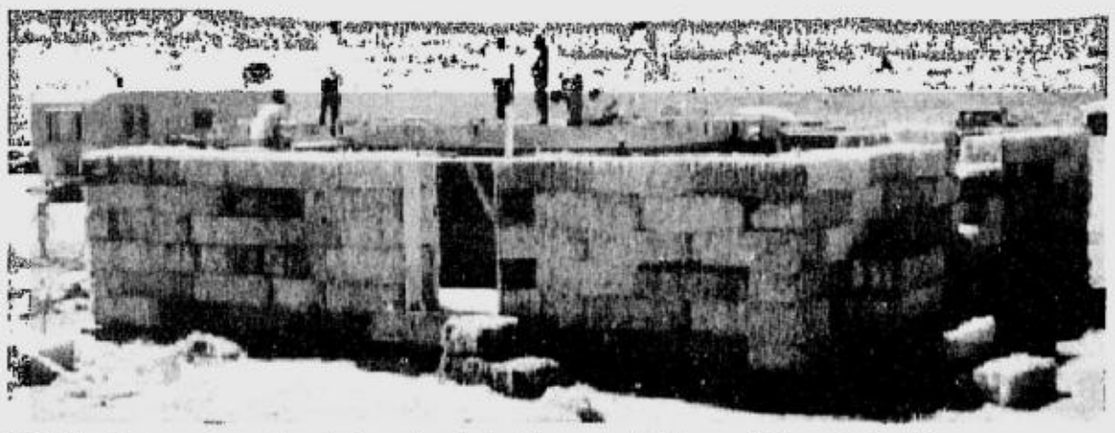
Rhodes estimates that using straw as insulation will save about 25 percent on wall construction costs, and the heating and cooling costs will be about 75 percent less than what his neighbors pay.

"You can heat them with a candle and cool them with an ice cube," Rhodes said.

Reducing energy bills has made straw bales an even more popular form of construction in California, where about 150 new straw buildings—from homes to retail stores—are under construction this year, King said.

Wineries are being built out of straw because the insulation provides great help in temperature control. Urban dwellers love straw homes because their thick walls absorb sound.

From the top of a hill south of Kulm, North Dakota, Brad Crabtree can see both his past and his future. In a valley down below is the lake where he hunted ducks as a youth. To his left is the farmstead he bought, where he is building what might be North Dakota's first straw bale house.



HOME builders erect a wall made from straw bales in a project in Tucson, Arizona, in the US.

He and his wife, Renee Gopal, and their 2-year-old daughter, Suria, plan to spend the rest of their lives here, relying on the sun and wind for power and their own inner strength to conquer the isolation of a rural area with no close neighbors.

For a couple who once lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, one of the largest cities in the world, it will be an adjustment. But one they are eager to make.

"It was that experience (in Brazil) that taught us the importance of connection to place," Crabtree said as he peered down at his new home from the hilltop.

Straw homes can be built to stand as long as other homes. Out of the estimated 80 straw homes built in Nebraska before last decade's revival, nine still stand.

Rhodes' home will set on a concrete slab. Used oil well casings were inserted into the slab to support the pitched roof. The 90-cm-long bales, pinned together and covered with wire mesh, will be stacked along the outer edge of the concrete.

The final application, a stucco mixture formulated for Nebraska's climate, will be applied inside and out. *AP*

Thailand to make cheaper AIDS drugs

BANGKOK—Thailand's state pharmaceutical enterprise plans by year's end to be manufacturing most of the expensive drugs commonly used to treat people with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The move will cut the cost of treatment in half, Thongchai Tavichachart, director of the Government Pharmaceutical Organization, said Friday.

He said the price of an average month's supply of the drugs would drop to $51 per person from $92.50 at present.

In January, in a move to make medicines more affordable, Thailand changed drug registration regulations in a way that give high-priced foreign products competition from locally-produced generic versions.

The high cost of medicines on which multinational pharmaceutical companies hold the patents has in recent years become a major complaint in many developing nations. The issue frequently arises with drugs used to treat symptoms and side-effects of AIDS.

Thongchai said he expected that the Government Pharmaceutical Organization would in the next three to four months have the capacity to produce enough of the drugs used in so-called "AIDS cocktails," comprising drugs such as AZT and Nevirapine, to serve the needs of 50,000 patients. Within a year, it should be able to supply at least 100,000 patients.

The official number of HIV-infected persons in Thailand is 500,000, although other estimates are twice as high. About 200,000 patients are undergoing drug therapy, said Thongchai.

He said the Government Pharmaceutical Organization has invested $445,000 in improving its AIDS drug manufacturing capacity. The enterprise currently manufactures small amount of the drugs on a trial basis.

There have been several major moves this year to tackle the problem of expensive patented AIDS drugs.

In February, an Indian drug company announced it would offer AIDS treatments to poor countries at a massively reduced price. Cipla Ltd. said it would sell its triple-combination therapy drugs to the aid agency Doctors Without Borders—known by its French initials MSF—for $350 and to governments for $600 per patient per year. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Luzon and Visayas

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Hi 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research/10/02/01

ROUNDUP

Preacher shot dead

DATU PAGLAS, Maguindanao—Unidentified gunmen shot dead a Muslim preacher while he was leading a prayer inside a mosque here on Monday noon, the military said on Thursday. Sheik Omar Gulam, 43, of Barangay Dimalusay, Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, died on the spot while two others were wounded when suspects wearing ski masks barged into the mosque and opened fire. About 50 people, who were inside the mosque, broke into pandemonium when the suspects fired at Gulam, said Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division. Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front condemned the attack, saying people inside mosques are supposed to be spared from violence.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Town councilor nabbed

DUMAGUETE CITY—Municipal councilor Rodrigo Zacharias of San Jose town here was arrested during a raid in his rented house on Sunday in Barangay Magatas, Sibulan town. Acting on a search warrant issued by Judge Alvin Tan of the Regional Trial Court in Dumaguete, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, Sibulan police and the 705th Police Mobile Group seized five plastic sachets containing white substance believed to be shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride). Zacharias was taken into custody at the 705th PMG headquarters and charges were filed against him in court.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

12 VCD vendors charged

TACLOBAN CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation in Eastern Visayas filed charges of violation of Presidential Decree 1987, an act creating the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB), against 12 sidewalk vendors for allegedly selling pirated video compact discs. In separate raids on Sept. 25, NBI agents seized 1,908 VCDs without VRB labels allegedly from the 12 vendors in downtown Tacloban. Brig. Gen. Manuel Mariano, VRB chair and executive officer, gave Salvador Ranin, NBI regional director, the authority to implement PD 1987, take into preventive custody the pirated VCDs and file charges in court.

Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

Dengue decline in Bohol

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Bohol Provincial Health Office noted a decline in the number of dengue cases in Bohol in September. Dr. Francisco Razalo, provincial health officer, said the total number of reported dengue cases last month was only 130, down from the 170 total for August. Razalo attributed the decrease to the province's campaign to keep communities clean. The cases reported for September, however, brought the total number of dengue cases to 471 from January. Four deaths had been blamed on dengue.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

4 holdup men nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested four holdup gang members who robbed a grocery store here of P80,000 in cash. NBI Legazpi agent Raymundo Sarga identified the suspects as Danilo Reodique, 20, of Pamplona, Camarines Sur; Jovan Abelida, 21, of Quezon City; Ronnel Abaiza, 33, and Ocial Noceto, 32, both of Albay. Sarga said the suspects, armed with handguns, held up the Alcazar Grocery near the NBI office. NBI agent Roan Estrellado was alerted when he heard three gunshots. He formed two teams to run after the suspects, whom they caught in Barangay Rawis here.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

POLICE THEORY

Plane dropped off drugs

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The police director of Cagayan Valley said it is "highly possible" that the 498-kilogram shabu intercepted in Quezon province last week may have come from the seven missing steel drums dropped by a plane in the sea off Dinapigue, Isabela, in July.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., regional police director, said a team of policemen, Army soldiers and Navy personnel had tried but failed to locate the drums after these were reported by Dinapigue residents.

Resos, in a report to Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said the drums that were dropped by a "camouflage-colored" plane that has a "big red star mark" on its side could have contained illegal drugs, chemicals or firearms.

The drums, Resos' report said, were dropped off in Barangay Digumased, a village facing the Pacific Ocean in Dinapigue town. The drums were reportedly taken by at least 20 armed men aboard two boats and were taken either to Aurora or Quezon provinces.

In an updated report two weeks ago before the shabu interception in Quezon, Resos said the drums allegedly containing shabu could have ended up on major islands in the Polillio Strait in Quezon.

He said a former official of Dinapigue is being investigated following reports that he and his bodyguards were in the vicinity of the drop off site a few hours before the drums were dropped and picked up.

"The drug syndicates may have opted to drop the drums in Dinapigue then (took) a long route to the Polillio Islands to evade authorities," Resos said.

He said if their intelligence reports were proven true, there could be more shabu left on Polillio Islands and in other coastal towns along the Philippine Sea in Aurora and Quezon provinces.

Resos feared that "other contraband from that drop-off may have ended in the hands of drug syndicates in the streets."

On Saturday night, joint operatives of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group and the National Bureau of Investigation intercepted the 498-kg shabu loaded inside the ambulance of Panukulan, Quezon, and a Starex van. Arrested in that operation were Panukulan Mayor Ronnie Mitra and his companions Javier Morilla, Roel Dequilla and Chinese national Willie Yao.

The contraband, valued at P1 billion, was intercepted in Real, Quezon.

Regional police officials have asked policemen in the coastal areas of Cagayan and Isabela to strictly monitor their coastlines as their intelligence reports showed that shipments of illegal drugs and firearms are being dropped off in these areas.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mercury cargo not found

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Local officials here tried to allay fears of an environmental disaster, saying the report on the sinking of a boat loaded with 500 kilograms of mercury could be fabricated.

This developed as days of intensive search and salvage operations in the Sarangani Bay, where the toxic cargo allegedly sank, yielded negative results.

Despite the new theory, City Administrator Rodrigo Salangsang said they are willing to launch one last operation to put the issue to rest.

Danilo Babol, claiming he was the skipper of the boat that allegedly sank with the toxic element on Sept. 30, personally went to the Tambler Police Station here to make the report.

He said his boat was overturned by big waves after a cargo ship passed near it.

This prompted the Philippine Navy and the Coast Guard to send in divers to try to locate the boat and the cargo but after days of operations, they declared the water was too deep for divers.

A laboratory test made by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on water samples taken from the Sarangani Bay turned out negative of mercury contamination, which raised hopes that the cargo has not leaked yet.

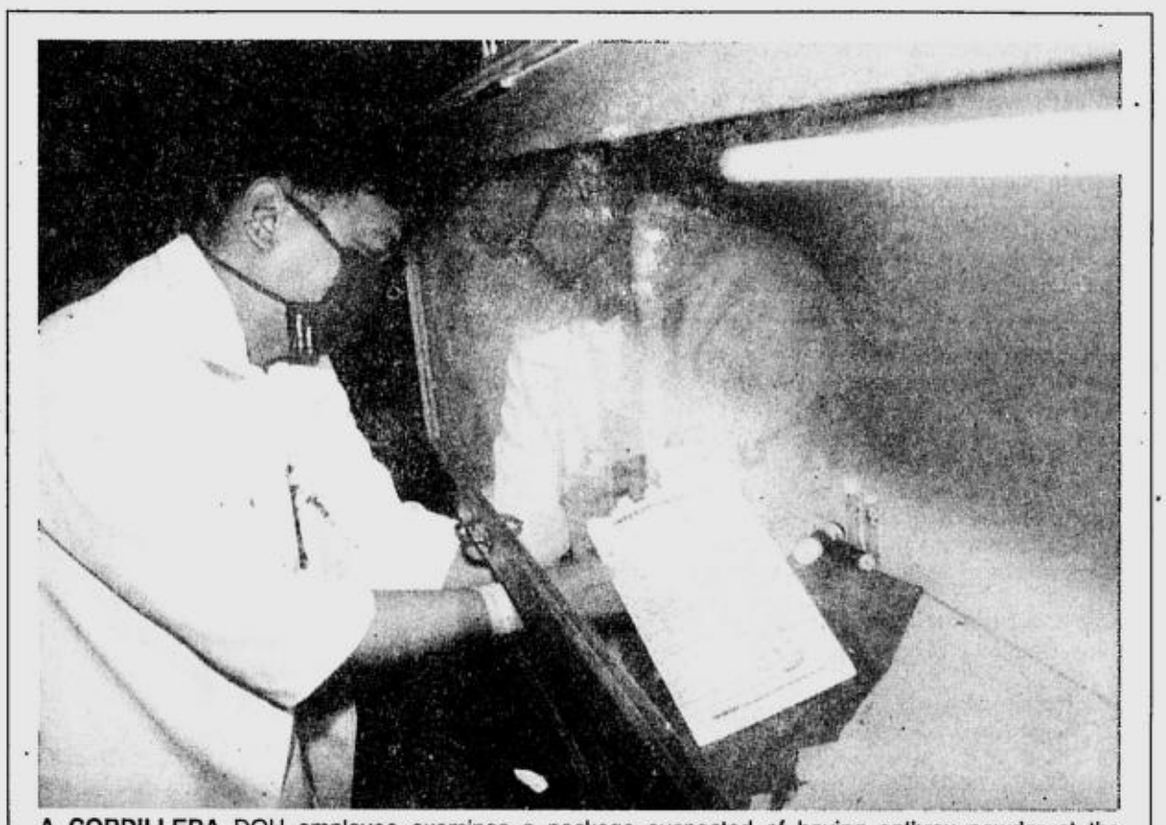
The divers also failed to recover or see the body of Marlon Salatang, an Indonesian national, who allegedly drowned during the sinking.

Police said Salatang's body could have already floated within 18 hours after he drowned.

"Maybe the story was just a diversionary tactic designed by smugglers to mislead police and customs authorities," Salangsang told reporters here.

Fishing operators here were alarmed by the reports, claiming these might affect the fishing industry particularly the sale of tuna in the international market.

As this developed, police and environment officials in Davao City recently arrested five people from this city for transporting 500 kilos of mercury without documents. *Aquilez Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



A CORDILLERA DOH employee examines a package suspected of having anthrax powder at the Baguio General Hospital laboratory. TOOTS SOBERANO

Anthrax fear spreads in Ecija

CABANATUAN CITY—A family of four and at least 20 medical officers and personnel of a government hospital here took 15-minute baths and antibiotics because of a suspicious letter sent here from abroad..

The procedure, according to Dr. Glorifino Juan, chief of the Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Medical and Research Center (PJGMMRC), was adopted as a precautionary measure against possible anthrax contamination.

He said the four family members, whom he did not identify, sought treatment in the hospital because they suspected that the powdery substance in the letter might be carrying the anthrax bacteria.

Juan said the 17-year-old recipient of the letter told him that he "saw white powdery substance in the letter and (it) smelled . . . different."

He said the letter was received on Tuesday and was opened in front of the three other members of the family.

The letter, which did not bear the name of the sender, came from Singapore.

Alarmed, the four members of the family rushed to the PJGMMRC here where they were admitted in the emergency room.

They were examined, given antibiotics and were told to take a bath for 15 minutes, a procedure recommended by Department of Health officials in suspected cases of anthrax exposure.

Juan said he and 19 other personnel who were in the hospital's emergency room likewise subjected themselves to the same procedure.

He said the four family members were sent home after they were found negative of anthrax.

However, he said the letter, which was sealed in another envelope, was sent to the DOH office in Manila for more tests.

Juan also revealed that a similar letter sent from Singapore was sent to the hospital Wednesday afternoon for tests.

In Pangasinan, a former employee of the Commission on Audit from Mangaldan town brought two letters he suspected of having anthrax bacteria to the Dagupan City police station.

The police turned over the letters to the Don Teofilio Sison Regional Hospital laboratory on Wednesday for tests.

Sheldon Aquino, head of the hospital's laboratory, said he would send the letters to the DOH because the hospital has no facilities to test the envelopes for the anthrax bacteria.

The letters, which came from Hong Kong and Singapore, were mailed to former COA employee Gualberto Doria.

Doria reportedly received the letters from the senders for the first time so he suspected they were laced with anthrax. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Yolanda Fuertes and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DSWD vows to back rape victims

BACOLOD CITY—Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman Friday said her department will continue to support the minors rescued from an American who has been charged with 71 counts of rape so far.

"The DSWD won't give up on the cases, we will see them through," said Soliman.

She said she was meeting with the parents of the minors "to encourage them and to show them that we will be supporting their bid for justice from this man."

Soliman said her department has filed rape cases against Victor Pearson, 53. He was arrested Aug. 16 in his residence in Barangay Andolawan, Ilog town where numerous video tapes and photographs of nude females, many of them minors, were seized.

The complainants against Pearson claimed that he employed them and forced them to have sex with him. They claimed that he videotaped them in the nude and while having sex.

Pearson has denied raping the minors.

"I will be meeting with the parents of the seven minors who are under our care now to encourage them to continue pursuing the cases," Soliman said.

The other rape complainants are no longer minors, she said.

"We are also helping the families of the minors through socio-economic assistance programs and livelihood because they are very poor," she said.

The families are from Cauayan and Kabankalan.

Pearson, a former member of the United States Marine Corps who had served in Vietnam, is now detained at the Negros Occidental provincial jail.

Cop arrested in pot session

DAVAO CITY—A policeman and two others were arrested Monday night after they were caught while allegedly having a pot session in a house on Mabini Boulevard here.

The operation by the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office (Rano) came on the same day that members of the local police were subjected to a drug test.

PO2 Allan Lipa, assigned at the Talomo police station, was arrested with a dancer of Apollo Cocktail Lounge and another man. Two others, identified as brothers Akmad and Abdula Abdurasid, managed to escape during the anti-drug operation.

Lipa, 34, of Catalunan Grande, was arrested together with Josephine Celestial, 26, of Cogon, Digos City, and Eduard Bayo Jr., 23, of Jacinto Extension.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who rushed to the Rano detention center just as the suspects and the operatives arrived Monday night, said Lipa was one of the five policemen he earlier referred as among those involved in the illegal drug trade.

The suspect first denied being a drug pusher in front of Duterte, but when the mayor got furious, he later admitted that he was into drug using and peddling two years ago. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Farmers hold 'World Foodless Day'

ILOILO CITY—At least 100 farmers marched here yesterday to mark "World Foodless Day," an annual nationwide protest action held to coincide with the United Nations' celebration of World Food Day.

Members of the Federation of Iloilo Farmers Association (FIFA) from various Iloilo towns assembled at the Plaza Libertad and marched to the regional office of the Department of Agriculture near Fort San Pedro.

"World Food Day is a misnomer and a gross insult to farmers. The policies of successive administrations, including the Arroyo administration, only worsen the country's dependence on food exports . . . ," said Carlos Talaman, FIFA chair.

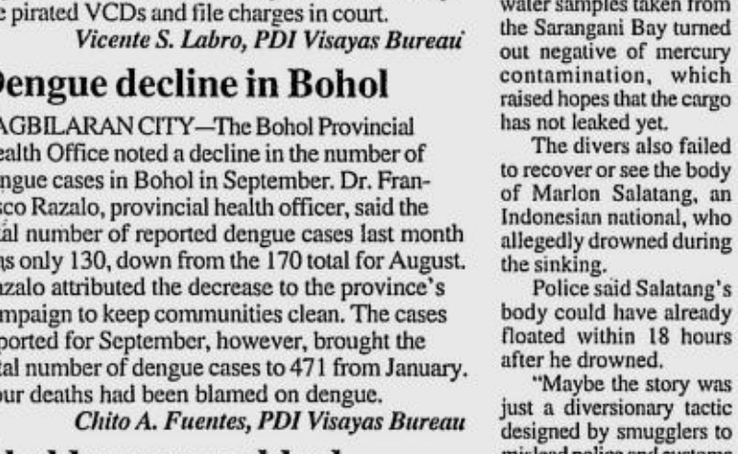
The farmers are also opposing a government plan to privatize the National Food Authority, which they said would put farmers at the mercy of private rice traders and lead to higher rice prices.

Talaman said the decision to allow traders to import rice has led to profiteering and higher prices of the staple.

The farmers also demanded an increase of the farm gate price of *palay* from P5.50 to P6.50.

Diosdado Magbanua, regional technical director of the DA who met with the farmers, urged the group's leaders to submit their position paper to the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau



ECOTOURISM SITE PHOTO COURTESY OF LANDCO

Developer Landco Pacific Corp. recently held groundbreaking rites for a 116-hectare ecotourism site in Tagaytay City. Those at the rites included Francis V. Ceballos (second from left), chief financing officer of Landco, and other officials of firms that are helping develop the site.

17,500 bags of sugar rotting in NFA warehouse

NAGA CITY—At least 17,500 bags of refined sugar are rotting at a National Food Authority warehouse in Tabaco City.

The sugar which are now starting to liquefy, could have already been sold had Commissioner Titus Villanueva acted on the request of the Bureau of Customs in Bicol to authorize a bidding.

The 17,500 bags of refined sugar, which were consigned to NFA Bicol Assistant Regional Director Pedro Lapid, were confiscated on Oct. 16, 2000 after the NFA failed to produce a clearance from Batangas, where these came from.

Lawyer Marcial Lopez, Bicol customs collector, said he has requested Villanueva several times for authorization but no action has come from the commissioner.

"I have asked in writing and talked to them personally telling them the depreciating condition of the sugar and telling them that we had to sell these at (an) auction sale. Still no action (has been) taken," Lopez said.

The customs collector here said he also requested the NFA to sell the forfeited sugar at P1,040 a bag according to customs rules.

He said the sugar remained stored because of the failure of their superiors to issue an authority to sell the seized cargo in a public auction.

Lopez said the authority to auction the confiscated goods was submitted to the commissioner during the Estrada administration after Executive Order 272 was issued.

"Before, our Tariff and Customs Code (was) very clear in giving absolute authority to the district collector alone to peg the price, the minimum bid price and to set the auction sale of all these perishable goods until it was overtaken by Executive Order 272," he said.

For confiscated goods worth P50 million, the authority rested on the President and the secretary of finance, according to current rules.

Lawyer Alwin C. Talde, NFA legal officer, said the customs bureau did not approve the request to authorize the customs collector because the requested bid price was P850 per bag.

Talde said the government would lose some P7.8 million because the authorized government price for refined sugar is P1,300.

Lopez confirmed that the previous request for the authority to bid included a request of a bid price of P850 a bag. He said the Legazpi Auction and Cargo Disposal Committee and the COA resident auditor recommended the bid price. Deputy Collector Winston Florin heads the committee.

He said he was also requesting for a negotiated sale of the forfeited sugar but it was not acted on. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Hope flickers for the dugongs

BY MA. KRISTINA E. CASSION
Surigao del Sur

SWIMMING with the tide after feeding on the dense sea grass near the shore of the Mahaba Island in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, a baby dugong got separated from its mother and unwittingly entrapped itself inside a fish corral.

Distressed and wailing loudly, the baby dugong tried to free itself from the entanglement.

Fishers who went to see their day's catch instead found the animal nearly unconscious and brought it ashore. An argument ensued among themselves over whether it was a dugong they had found because of its size.

"The usual dugong they see are matured ones, with breasts for females or protruding sex organs for the males. What they found had none, but I insisted it was a baby dugong," says Gemma Glades, president of the Ladies United with Men for Development (Lumod), a local people's organization.

Concluding that it was not a dugong after all, the fishers pounded on the head of the helpless animal till it died. They immediately slaughtered it and sold the meat in the neighborhood at P60 per kilo.

Lumod wanted to press charges against the butchers but was won over by neighborly feelings. Instead, Glades cautioned them not to do it again.

The incident happened on April 21 and it was only one of a series of baby dugong killings.

Rowan Byrne, an Irish marine and freshwater biologist of the Voluntary Service Overseas Philippines (VSOP) who also works for the Center for Empowerment and Research Development (CERD) in Hinatuan, had documented the slaughter of six baby dugongs from October last year to Oct. 15 this year.

The dugongs, locally known as *duyongs*, have been sighted off Hinatuan since 1950, according to existing records, and possibly even earlier. They feed on the thick sea grass all over Hinatuan Bay.

According to Byrne, the dugongs frequent two areas—the feeding zone, where they are usually seen by fishers, and the safe zone, where they hide for a few days since they do not stay in the same area.

They are seen more frequently off the coastal barangays of Loyola, Mahaba, Langka, Portlamon, Mamaoa, Talisayan and Pangasinan, which are either established fish sanctuaries or mangrove reforestation sites.

Fishers were reported to have seen the dugongs enter in the morning and leave in the afternoon with the ebb and flow of the tide. According to other reports, the dugongs are also frequently seen three days before the full moon every month around the Pangasinan and Portlamon areas.

A DEAD baby dugong trapped in a fish corral in Maomaoa Island in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, is displayed by villagers. PHOTOS BY MA. KRISTINA E. CASSION

Byrne suspects that the other areas comprise their feeding zone, and Talisayan is probably the safe zone where they can hide in the deep waters.

The dugongs cover a small territory, especially in both shallow and not-so-deep waters that provide them food and protection from predators like sharks.

But the problem is, according to Byrne, they also need protection in in-shore waters where man is the predominant predator, the reason for their dwindling number.

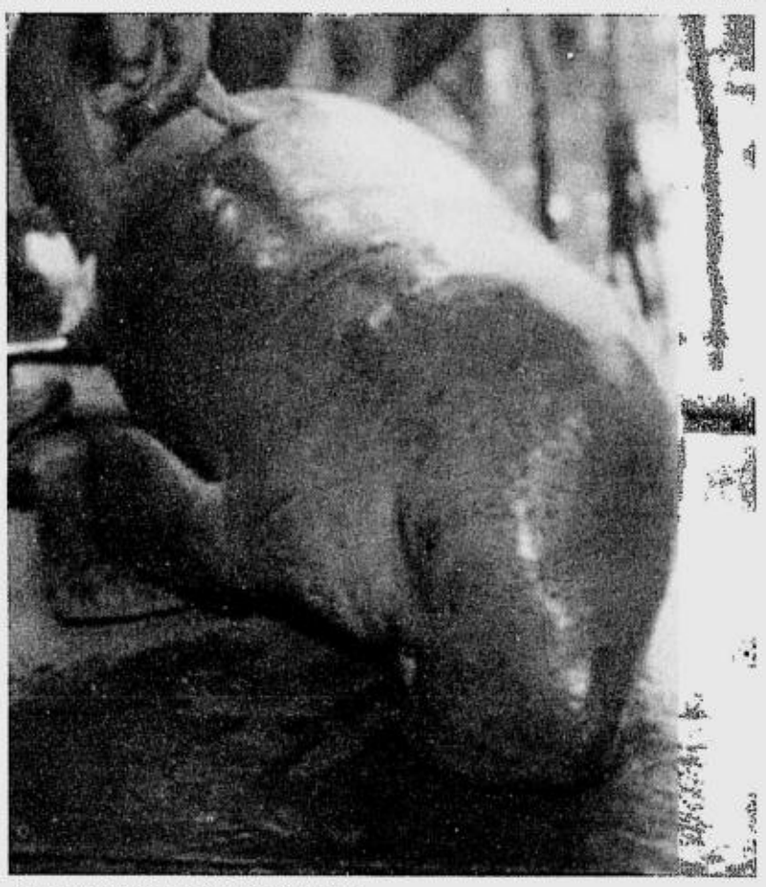
With around a hundred in 1950, possibly more before that, the dugong population has since been decreasing. They have become victims of illegal fishing methods, such as dynamite and cyanide fishing, extensive use of fish corrals, illegal fine mesh-net fishing in protected areas, and over-expansion of fishponds.

Byrne estimates the present number to be 40 to 50.

In the past decades, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources assumed that the dugongs had become extinct in Surigao, citing no additional reports of sightings. This was contained in its manual on "Dugongs of the Philippines: A Report of the Joint Dugong Research and Conservation Program)."

This was why, Byrne says, no endeavors were initiated to protect or preserve the globally endangered dugong species in the Surigao region, let alone in Hinatuan.

National government agencies and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), which Byrne contacted, acknowledged that they were unaware of the presence of dugongs in the Hinatuan area. They stated they had finished recent surveys, 200 kilometers short south of Hinatuan, thus missing the whole area.



BABY dugong: Victim of slaughter.

They stopped the survey work because sightings were no longer being reported.

But according to Byrne, for a population that was once thought to be extinct, the dugongs have survived and appeared to have reached a "population equilibrium" before last year.

Myths and cures

Dugongs, with their fleshy snouts, big rounded bodies and gentle ways, and their dependence on aquatic plants, have always been likened to cows. Thus, they are commonly called "sea cows."

The dugong is a truly unique animal, being the only herbivorous mammal today, whose preferred habitat is the sea.

An adult can grow to more than three meters long (size ranges from 2.4 to 2.7 meters) and can weigh more than 400 kilograms. Newly born calves are slightly over a meter long and weigh 20 to 35 kg.

Myths abound from around the world about the first dugong. Two are popular in Hinatuan.

Lito Ligubio, 20, recalls his father telling him that the first dugong was a man, who was known to curse anyone and everything. Finally, the gods got tired of his curses and struck him with lightning. They transformed him into a man-like creature with a protruding sex organ and shrimp's tail for feet.

Another version is that of the mother of *Lola* Paz Legarbio's.

Legarbio recalls being told that the first dugong was a woman named Maria. While she, her husband and their baby were at sea, her husband suddenly got angry with Maria and pushed her into the waters with her child in her arms. This could explain why a female dugong is usually seen breastfeeding her baby.

True or not, local fishers fervently believe these stories.

"It really is like a man. If you slice one of its fins, you will see it resembles our hands," insists young Lito.

Dugongs are not only prized for its meat that, they say, tastes like beef, but also for its medicinal properties.

Ricksho Uriarte, 60, says the sex organ of a male dugong can cure a man with "*umpawak*," a disease of the male sex organ.

The tusk, when pulverized and swallowed, is said to cure severe vomiting and diarrhea. Even its bones were said to have many medicinal values.

Sea bio-diversity

Dugongs not only taste good and can cure many illnesses, but they also help keep a balance in marine bio-diversity.

According to Byrne, dugongs comprise the second stage of the sea's food triangle or food web. The sea grass, surviving through photosynthesis, is eaten by the dugongs, the grazers. The animals eat a lot of low-nutrient food (sea grasses), so they help regulate the growth of sea grass. In turn, their wastes are regenerated for fishes to feed on.

"It's like cow's wastes that fertilizers the field. But when dugongs are destroyed, you will have a stage missing in the pyramid and these can have adverse effects. It's like destroying the second stage of the Pyramid of Egypt and the whole structure will fall down," Byrne points out.

He cautions that if the second stage of the chain is canceled, there will be high sea grass growths and will be elements that will go out of control. There will be no grazers but excessive sea grass and algae growth.

Hope

With six baby dugongs already killed and the fact that female dugongs reproduce only every three to seven years, Byrne is apprehensive if the population will even reach 2005.

Despite this, Byrne says, the fact that the dugongs come to Hinatuan goes to show that the place has good resources and good coastal quality of water.

The seven fish sanctuaries and six mangrove reforestation areas established by the CERD in Hinatuan Bay buoy up hope for the dugongs.

Byrne says mangroves help filter the water for sea grass and fish corrals to survive. Fish sanctuaries, in turn, give a chance for the fish population to recover from over-exploitation.

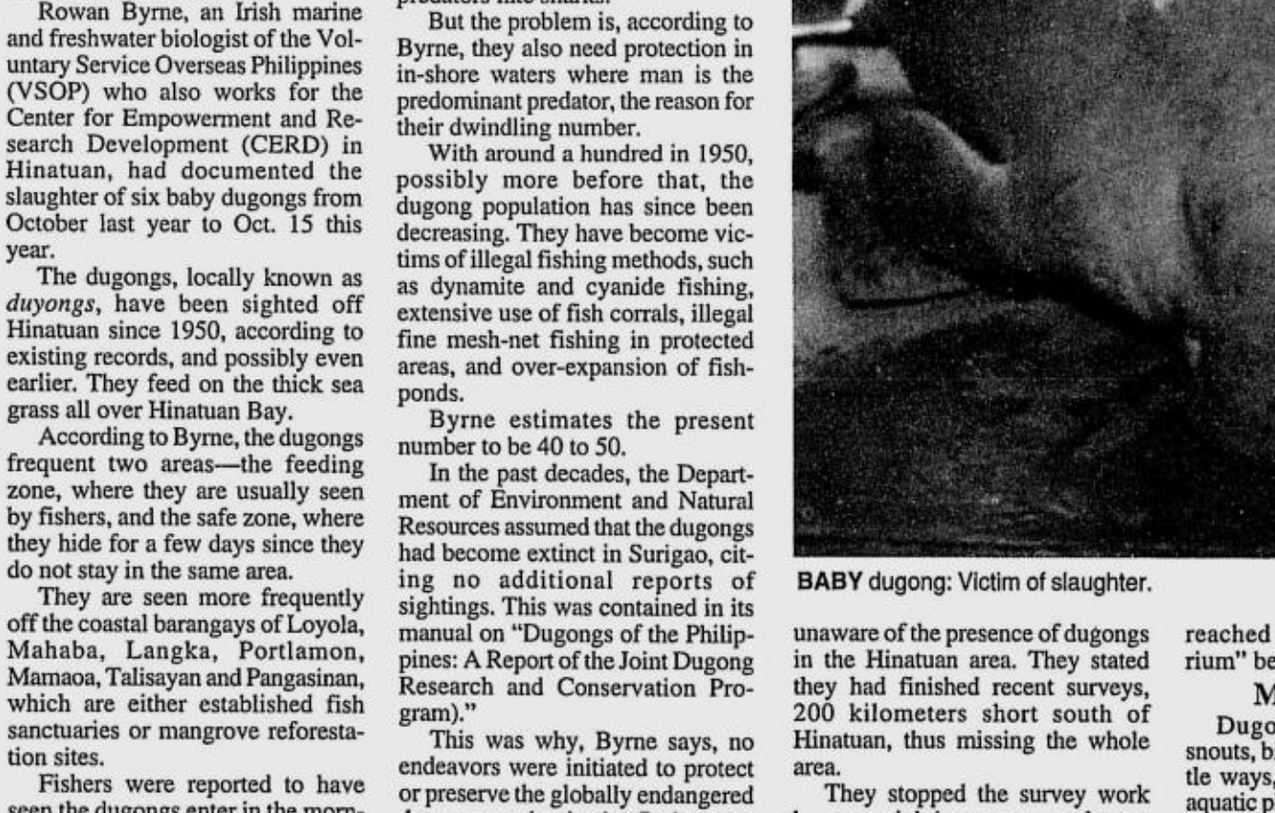
Still there are dangers for these marine sanctuaries, such as quarrying operations in Portlamon that contribute to heavy sedimentation in the Hinatuan Bay. This will eventually choke the sea grass and fish corrals.

Corrals near the shores of the islands endanger the lives of baby dugongs. These are permanent structures embedded in the sea bottom and left for how many days by fishers. Dugongs caught in corrals eventually die because of drowning as the tide rises.

The most dangerous, however, are the mining operations in Hinatuan. Two companies are already operating there—one owned by Endalecio Elargo and the Hinatuan Mining Co. The list is getting longer with the pending applications with the DENR of the Robert Cement Mining Corp., Carlosa Mining Corp., Iraq Mining Corp. and the Golden Falcon Mining Corp.

Byrne and CERD are all running against time to establish the safe zones of the dugongs after the feeding zones have already been established. They seek to establish these areas as dugong sanctuaries and to lobby for the regulation of fish corrals within the sanctuaries.

Is extinction inevitable? Maybe not, but immediate and drastic actions are needed. Man-made threats may well be the end of the dugongs. Extinction is forever.



Sayonara, karaoke bars

BY JOEL B. ESCOVILLA
Davao City

DAVAO City's tourism sector has laid down plans aimed at attracting "upward, young, and mobile Japanese women" who travel to Southeast Asian countries, except the Philippines.

Arturo Boncato Jr., president of the Davao Tourism Association (DaTA), said the plans included the marketing of health resorts, natural scenery and culturally enhancing activities.

He said Japanese women often travel to Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Burma because there, they are treated to the local culture and other things that enrich themselves, educationally and personally.

"Japanese women who are capable of spending have a common trait—they're interested in handicrafts and beauty," Boncato said.

He admits that the failure of the tourism industry to fully promote other things that are potential tourist drawers has also caused Japanese women to shy away from the Philippines.

These included beauty salons and health spas in hotels.

Because of this, Boncato said, the country is frequently visited by "50-60 year old Japanese males."

"The Philippines has a certain image many Japanese (men) are aware of," Boncato said, referring to karaoke bars and other sleazy joints.

Aside from targeting Japanese women, Boncato said the city's tourism sector would also take advantage of the 100th anniversary of the Japanese presence here to boost revenue.

The country has suffered from a negative image abroad following a rash of kidnappings of foreigners and Filipino tourists in island resorts in the country.

The most recent kidnapping took place at the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

Gunmen belonging to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group took several hostages from the resort, including an American couple and businessman Rhegis Romero.

The resort is now trying to recover from the kidnapping and hosted the first ever Ms Earth pageant.

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Bush to Apec: Join fight to save civilized world

(From page A1)

"Our enemies are murderers with global reach. They seek weapons to kill on a global scale. Every nation must oppose this enemy or turn into its target," he said.

Bush spoke shortly after US defense officials said that special operations forces had completed the first ground raid on southern Afghanistan, and that two US soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in neighboring Pakistan.

"The soldiers died in a cause that is just and right, and we will prevail," he said.

Earlier, Bush met with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who had earlier urged the United States to halt its bomb-and-missile attacks on Afghanistan. The subject did not come up in the closed-door meeting, US officials said.

The meeting "went very well," Mahathir told reporters without elaboration. Later, he gave a speech that took a swipe at economic globalization as preached by the wealthy West. *(See story on this page.)*

Mahathir "is concerned about the deaths of innocent people in Afghanistan, and I assured him I am, too," Bush said.

Malaysia and Indonesia, who, along with Brunei, are the only predominantly Muslim countries in the 21-member Apec, are fighting to prevent the group from backing the US-led military campaign.

In his speech, Bush called the fight against terrorism "the urgent task of our time," and warned that terrorists wanted to undermine Asia's hard-fought economic gains.

"The terrorists tried to shatter confidence in the world economic system, but they failed," he said. "The terrorists hoped markets would collapse, but markets have proven their resiliency and strength. We know a future of greater trade and growth and human dignity is possible—and we will build it."

Under one roof

Other Pacific Rim leaders said the mere act of gathering under one roof showed that they would not be deterred by the global terrorism crisis triggered by the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

"It sends an important message to those who would seek to undermine all that we collectively stand for, not only at a political level but also at a business level," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said in a speech to business leaders.

Bush also met with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who said they had discussed "worldwide cooperation to fight terrorism."

He praised Koizumi for supporting the US-led effort in Afghanistan. In turn, Koizumi said: "I sense excellent chemistry between the president and me."

Bush met Chinese President Jiang Zemin for the first time Friday and praised him for sharing intelligence on terrorists' activities and helping to cut off financing to their organizations.

The Chinese leader reiterated his support for the US war on terrorism. But he urged Bush to avoid the deaths of civilians in Afghanistan, underlining the difficulty of keeping the fragile anti-terrorism coalition together.

The Apec leaders are expected to approve a statement against terrorism without mentioning the US-led military campaign.

Malaysia and Indonesia will not be able to endorse a statement supporting the strikes that have killed some Muslim civilians in Afghanistan, various Apec officials have said.

According to Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, protectors of prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden, the air strikes have resulted in 600-900 dead or missing.

Collective response

After a meeting Friday with US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda said his government believed that "a collective international response" to the Sept. 11 attacks was preferable to unilateral US military action.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who met with Bush in Washington shortly after Sept. 11, was one of the first foreign leaders to sign up for the anti-terrorism campaign. But she has since hardened her stance against the air strikes.

Her country has the world's largest Muslim population and has seen a series of anti-war rallies attended by thousands.

Many Westerners have fled Indonesia and Malaysia following mass anti-American protests.

US officials believe that Bin Laden's al-Qaida network has been trying to build ties with Islamic militants in Malaysia.

Bush was scheduled to meet Saturday with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, who expressed sympathy with the United States after the attacks.

The US president was also scheduled to meet with Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo later in the day.

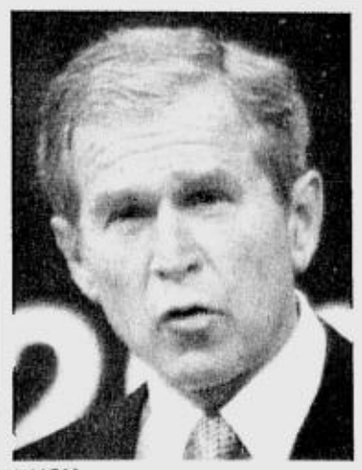
Bush meets Sunday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is expected to discuss how to replace the Taliban regime if it is defeated.

"I would not expect any startling news" on Sunday, Bush said.

According to White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer, Bush has decided to cut short his trip and return home Sunday night after his meeting with Putin and dinner with other Apec leaders.

"He's done with the meetings (after Putin) so the only thing he would do at that point is sleep," Fleischer said.

Bush had planned to leave Shanghai Monday morning. *Reports from AP*



BUSH

MAHATHIR

Mahathir, Bush clash on globalization

SHANGHAI—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad delivered on Saturday a broadside against economic globalization and Western ways that he said were leaving too many people behind.

"The sacred truth that every globalization ideologue knew not so long ago was that globalization is . . . always good for every one, at all times, in every way," Mahathir told business leaders gathered here for the weekend summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. "This is so contrary to the facts as they have been experienced by the countries of East Asia, Africa and Latin America."

US President George W. Bush took the opposite view, saying, "trade is the engine of economic advancement" and essential to improving peoples' opportunities and fortunes.

"Choose openness, trade and commerce and you will find prosperity, liberty and knowledge. Choose isolation and envy and resentment and you will find poverty, stagnation and ignorance," Bush said, adding:

"Trade applies the power of markets to the needs of the poor."

As examples, Bush said, markets and trade had helped China's per capita Gross Domestic Product rise by 513 percent since 1975, Malaysia had been able to cut its illiteracy rate by two-thirds, and other nations had sharply reduced infant mortality.

Pulpits of capitalism

But Mahathir said there had to be a better way than following "the principal pulpits of capitalism and the free market, including the World Trade Organization (WTO)."

"If globalization is to be sustainable, there must be many more winners and fewer losers, and they should both be a mixture of the rich and the poor," he said. "The winners must not win to an obscene extent, and the losers must not lose to an equally obscene extent."

Mahathir has long been a vocal critic of free trade as promoted by the wealthy industrial countries, and a foe of financiers including billionaire George Soros, whom he accused of aggravating Asia's financial crisis of 1997-1998 through opportunistic currency speculation.

He said he saw little chance for a worldwide push toward "a more productive, compassionate and caring globalization," and called on East Asia nations to cooperate more closely by creating stable monetary systems and currencies.

Those who "cannot be part of the solution . . . should get out of the way and not be part of the problem," Mahathir said.

He added: "Given the mountain of money and the power that comes out of the almighty dollar, is it any surprise that global capitalism is in charge of the 'Washington consensus,' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), of the World Bank, of the WTO, of the wealthiest and most powerful nations in the world?"

Truth deficit

Mahathir also said some proponents of globalization had created a "truth deficit."

"There is simply too little fact and too much self-serving fiction," he said. "There are too many who are prepared to tell lies and to bend the truth to push through their sacred cause."

But despite his colorful language, Mahathir insisted to the roomful of some of the world's top capitalists that he did not oppose financial success.

"I have nothing against rich people, against very rich people, or against people who used to be called the filthy rich," he said. "I hope there are many in this audience who fall into one of these categories." *AP*

GMA stands tall among Apec leaders

(From page A1)

irrigation project in Cotabato. The kidnappers are believed to be ex-members of the secessionist group.

The President said that in securing Zhang's release, "family ties" and "rapport with religious elders, family elders, even international friends who have helped in the past" were tapped. She said it was precisely the appeal of Zhang's relatives and Chinese diplomats that prodded Philippine authorities to enter into negotiations and not take the "mailed-fist" policy employed to fight kidnap groups including the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu.

'Little Afghanistan'

The President acknowledged that Basilan had turned into a "little Afghanistan," and said she would ask Apec to expand its formal trade agenda to include measures to keep member-nations free from terrorist attacks.

At today's Apec leaders' agenda briefing, where she has been given the task of speaking about terrorism in Asia, she will raise the need for such measures as the strengthening of anti-money laundering laws, the tightening of immigration regulations, and the securing of seaports and airports.

More than this, she said, she would bat for a more potent measure: ensuring "that the mass base for terrorism will be eroded" by infusing progress into poorer countries.

"We are talking here of empowering the poorer community through e-commerce and integrating them into the global and regional economy," the President said, adding that this could be done by promoting "small- and medium-scale industries, family enterprises and family farms."

She said these programs could be implemented in "Muslim areas."

The President also raised these points in separate interviews Thursday night with the New York Times and Financial Times and the CNN news network.

"Through this kind of measures that Apec is capable of doing, we will be able to stress the point that this is not a war against Islam, only a war against terrorism," she said.

But in pushing for a "tougher" anti-terrorism stand among Apec members, the President said she would not impose her views on Malaysia and Indonesia, whose leaders had criticized the US-led military strikes on Afghanistan.

"It's not for me to tell them what to do," she said. "What I proposed is that we form a trilateral coalition to fight terrorism within our common borders, and they're very agreeable to that."

She said she would rather concentrate on working on this "common position" than on "our different positions on certain operational matters."

Different case

The President said Zhang's case was different from that of the missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, who had also asked the government to stop military operations against, and resume negotiations, with the Abu Sayyaf.

The bandit group had held the Burnhams hostage since their May 27 abduction from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

According to the President, Zhang's family and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Wang Chungui asked that his safety be given more importance than his release.

"We are talking here about an ordinary kidnap syndicate in the sense that it is not a terrorist group. They do it for money, but they're not out to terrorize innocent civilians as a whole," she said in explaining why she acceded to the Chinese government's request for negotiations.

"We cannot handle terrorist kidnappers in the same way that we handle common criminals (engaged in) kidnapping," the President said.

Still, she said, the government would unleash its military might on the group responsible for the kidnapping of Zhang and his companions.

"There is no amnesty agreement with them," she said.

The President was to have issued her statement on Zhang's release via phone patch to Malacañang, where Zhang was presented before the media about 3:15 p.m.

But Palace technicians repeatedly failed to make a connection, and Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona had to read the statement.

RP-China relations

Wang particularly thanked "my personal friend Ambassador Salem Adam" for Zhang's release.

"(This) can only strengthen the bilateral relations between China and the Philippines," the ambassador said.

Wang, along with Ermita, Adam, Sema, and other Chinese Embassy officials, escorted Zhang to Malacañang.

Guingona, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Interior Secretary Joey Lina were on hand to meet the group.

Wang said the Chinese government was still committed to help develop Mindanao. He said that despite the kidnapping, Chinese nationals were still working on the Cotabato irrigation project, which is nearing completion.

Adam acknowledged the efforts of "some leaders of the MILF" led by vice chair Al Haj Murad, Mayor Sema, the military and the police.

"It took about three weeks with all the difficulty but thanks to all . . . I was able last night to accomplish my mission. I'm very, very happy with the release (of the hostage)," he said.

Ermita said the MILF hierarchy's help in the negotiations was a "positive indication" of the success of the ongoing peace talks between the government and the secessionist group.

PHOTO-OP for China's President Jiang Zemin and President Macapagal before the start of the leaders' session at the Apec summit on Saturday. AP

Is Nene wronging honorable men?

(From page A1)

"The constant use of the word 'honorable' by legislators in reference to themselves is beginning to grate in the ears of our people," said Pimentel yesterday.

"Let others call us honorable, if that is the way they feel they should address us. But for us to call ourselves honorable, and in a repetitious manner, that only make us feel ill at ease," he stressed.

This "honorable" practice, he said, is nothing but an exercise in self-flattery that does not in any way enhance the quality of debates or deliberations in the halls of Congress.

Pimentel assured he was not being sarcastic but that this tradition of parliamentary courtesy is awkward and unnecessary because members of Congress are understood to be men of honor and respect, he said.

This is not the first time that Pimentel has raised the issue. In many public hearings at the Senate, Pimentel has been reminding witnesses and guests to stop saying "your honor" when answering questions from the senators.

Even No.2

In filing Senate Bill 837 calling for the ban on low-numbered car plates, Pimentel only made an exception of No.1, which is for exclusive use of the President. All other numbers would be canceled and withdrawn.

The ban will include No. 2 upwards including the low numbers issued even to bureau directors. No.2 is reserved for the vice president.

He said this traditional practice paints an "ugly picture" that high-ranking government officials are special.

The protocol or courtesy car plates for high government officials. Pimentel said, was not good to flaunt in the streets when many Filipinos are starving.

Once the bill becomes law. Pimentel said, the Land Transportation Office shall desist from issuing protocol, courtesy or vanity low-numbered car plates for these public officials.

Like royalty

As a rationale for his bill. Pimentel pointed out that many government officials and middle-level bureaucrats roam the streets like "members of royalty" in heavy-tinted vehicles sporting low-numbered plates.

He said they evoke a false impression that these favored few are exempt from traffic rules and regulations.

"The low-numbered plates smack of delusions of grandeur," Pimentel said.

"There is no legitimate reason for ranking government officials to be accorded this kind of special privilege."

The Pimentel bill provides that only the official vehicles of the President and those of the diplomatic corps, as provided by any treaty, agreement or protocol sanctioned by international law, shall be exempted by the ban on the use of protocol plates.

But this exemption, he stressed, shall not apply to representatives of foreign states or international organizations that do not grant Filipino diplomatic representatives in their countries a similar privilege.

The bill penalizes violators with a fine of P10,000 to P50,000 upon conviction, or imprisonment or one month and one day to six months.

US troops hit Taliban lair

(From page A1)

Taliban claimed the garrison was empty and there was no armed contact between US and Afghan troops.

The raid was followed as dawn broke with air strikes on frontline Taliban forces facing opposition troops in the northern province of Samangan.

Following the ground operation the troops pulled out. *(See story on US special forces on Page A16)*

The head of the Taliban's information agency, Abdul Hanan Hemat, told Agence France Presse that the US troops had been dropped by helicopter overnight into Baba Sahib, a mountainous region west of Kandahar at 11 p.m. Friday.

"The forces of the Islamic Emirate (Taliban) went to the area and the US troops were forced to leave a short while after they had landed," he said.

US officials would give no details on casualties from either side, but said that two US personnel were killed when a helicopter crashed in Pakistan.

"Two US military personnel were killed today in Pakistan as a result of a helicopter accident while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom," a Pentagon statement said. "Names have not been released pending notification of next of kin."

Pakistani officials told AFP that the chopper crashed as it came in to land at Dalbandin airport near the Afghan border in the southwestern province of Baluchistan.

"The pilot and co-pilot jumped to safety but two American servicemen were killed and one other soldier was injured," a senior security official said.

"The helicopter was involved in a search-and-rescue operation as part of the logistical support Pakistan is providing (for the US campaign)," a Pakistani military official said.

The helicopters and troops based on US aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean would have to fly over Baluchistan to reach Afghan targets.

Pakistan has granted the US-led coalition permission to use its airspace and two air bases. US officials would not say whether the crashed helicopter had been taking part in the Rangers' operation.

Opposition

A commander of the opposition Northern Alliance confirmed on Friday that US military liaison teams had joined them and that they would seek to coordinate attacks on Taliban.

"Since 6.00 a.m. (0130 GMT), US planes have been bombing the Taliban positions," opposition spokesperson Mohammad Ashraf Nadeem told AFP by satellite telephone from the Dara-e-Souf valley in Samangan on Saturday.

It was the first reported attack on Taliban frontlines since Wednesday when US warplanes struck positions north of Kabul. The opposition earlier dismissed those raids as purely symbolic.

US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the United States was coordinating with rebels in northern Afghanistan as well as other anti-Taliban forces.

"There is good coordination from the air with the ground in some places, particularly in the north," Rumsfeld told reporters who flew with him Friday to Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, to visit with crews of B-2 stealth bombers.

NOT much is left of the Kabul Military Barracks West in Kabul as this image, released Oct. 19 of the Kabul Military barracks in Afghanistan after the US strikes, shows. REUTERS

The defense secretary also acknowledged there was "no doubt" that the war against terrorism would carry into countries beyond Afghanistan.

Separately, US officials said the air assaults that began Oct. 7 would intensify soon and focus more directly on frontline Taliban troops.

Afghan forces opposing the Taliban are seeking additional US military assistance. Rumsfeld said Northern Alliance forces had received US aid, including ammunition and money.

The Taliban said Saturday that US bombing raids had also continued overnight over the capital Kabul, Kandahar and the western city of Herat.

"The planes dropped six bombs one after the other," a resident in northern part of Kabul said. "The bombs appeared very powerful as the explosions were very loud."

He said the planes circled over Kabul for some time but no anti-aircraft fire was heard.

Refugees

Thousands of Afghans were fleeing attacks around the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, the UN refugee agency said.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers said the number of Afghans in flight was surging.

"Hundreds of thousands . . . are on the roads," Lubbers told a briefing at the United Nations in New York.

According to UN refugee agency officials, up to 80 percent of the 500,000 residents of Kandahar have fled.

Afghanistan's neighbors, already hosting millions of Afghans from two decades of previous conflict, have sealed its borders—fearing influxes of fleeing civilians and fighters.

Pakistan was reinforcing closing of its border Saturday, after allowing in about 3,000 civilians Friday, mostly from Kandahar, Daniel Endres of the UN refugee agency's office in Islamabad said.

With the borders closed, access for fleeing Afghans "can only be through the informal entry points," Endres said.

At the dusty Pakistan border town of Chaman, the nearest crossing point from Kandahar, desperate Afghans were slipping across the border—sometimes selling everything they own to pay guides for the journey, Chaman resident Ajnabi Gul Aga said. "They arrive here penniless, knocking on everyone's doors, begging for food, money, anything," said Ajnabi Gul Aga, a Chaman resident who was reached by telephone.

With borders closed, most Afghans are seeking shelter in the Afghan countryside and mountain villages—sometimes crowding four families to a mud hut in tiny hamlets, UN officials said.

Fatumata Kaba, a UN refugee agency official, said refugees spoke of widespread looting and desperate struggles for food.

"What the new arrivals tell us is that yes, law and order is breaking down," Kaba said. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

Special operations forces: Precise, deadly secret

WASHINGTON—If you think of the American war machine in Afghanistan as a chain saw, these soldiers are more like scalpels.

Their reputation springs from Vietnam, where President John F. Kennedy authorized the Army's special forces to wear green berets.

Their mission was to assemble behind-the-lines guerrilla bands and engage in other unconventional warfare operations.

The term "special operations forces" now covers US commando forces from every branch of the military—the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. And now they are on the ground in Afghanistan.

A closer look:

Q: What are "special operations forces?"

A: These are units of highly specialized warriors trained to conduct difficult, covert or unusual missions: hostage rescue, reconnaissance, psychological operations. They usually work in small teams, away from the front lines. Many are traditional commandos, but some are pilots, technical experts or psychological warfare specialists.

Q: Who are they?

A: About 46,000 people belong to US special operations forces, including support staff and civilians. Each branch of the military trains its own. Relatively few are trained for conventional combat operations.

The Army has Rangers, Green Berets and Delta Force. Rangers are infantry shock troops who are usually borne by helicopter into battle. Green Berets can train resistance fighters. Delta Force is a highly secretive counterterrorist team.

The Army also has the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment—the "Night Stalkers"—to slip commandos behind enemy lines aboard MH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

The Navy has SEALS, an unconventional warfare unit trained to function on or in the water or near shorelines.

The Air Force has a variety of special operations forces, including cargo plane and helicopter pilots trained to drop in commandos and equipment, and conduct rescues. Combat air traffic controllers from an Air Force Special Tactics Group can slip into an airport ahead of an air assault force to prepare a runway for their arrival.

Air Force pararescuemen are warrior medics who are trained to rescue a downed pilot and fight off enemy soldiers sent to capture him.

The Air Force also flies AC-130 Spectre gunships, propellor-driven cargo planes bristling with side-mounted guns.

Another Air Force plane, the Air National Guard's EC-130 Commando Solo, conducts "psyops"—psychological operations—by broadcasting to enemy troops.

The Marines have Force Recon and other specialized units, most trained to support amphibious assaults.

Under a 1994 law, almost all special operations troops are men.

Women serve only on the Air Force C-130s.

Q: Where are they based in the United States?

A: The Army's commandos are at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Many of the Air Force's special operations units are based at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Navy SEAL teams are based on the East and West coasts. They fall under the US Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Q: Are units like these only in the US military?

A: No. Other countries have similar forces for military and counterterrorism roles. Among the most famous is the British SAS, or Special Air Service, which is believed to be participating in the operations in Afghanistan.

In addition, several civilian federal agencies have paramilitary and counterterror forces, such as the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team. The CIA's special operations groups can be deployed overseas to arm and train friendly forces and conduct raids.

Q: What special operations forces are in Afghanistan?

A: The military isn't saying much. The Air Force is flying EC-130 Commando Solos and AC-130 Spectres there. On the ground, experts say the Green Berets and CIA commandos are a good bet. Army or Air Force helicopters would be used to transport and supply them.

The aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk is on station in the Arabian Sea and is serving as a floating base for special operations forces.

Q: How might they be used in Afghanistan?

A: The Green Berets and CIA troopers can train, arm and lead indigenous forces like the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance. They can coordinate US air strikes when the alliance goes into battle. They, or other special operators, can conduct covert reconnaissance in the hunt for suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden and Taliban leaders.

Some can be equipped with laser designators that can pinpoint targets for US bombs to home in on.

They also can assault terrorist strongholds and caves, attack vehicle convoys, blow up bridges and use sniper rifles to pick off leaders from great distances.

Q: What are the risks?

A: If a team of commandos is discovered, they could be overwhelmed by a larger force, even if the opposition had only minimal trainir and weapons. This happened in Soma.ia in 1993, when a force of Rangers and Delta troopers hunting Somali warlord lost 18 people.

About 300 Somalis were killed in the same firefight, but the American loss was considered a humiliating defeat that prompted withdrawal of the US force. *AP*

Many faiths, one language of the heart

(From page A1)

told the INQUIRER in a recent interview. "But it's ironic that most of the conflicts in the world today involve religion."

Africa, a Catholic Christian, and several others of different faiths formed the circle to promote peace through simple, subtle, but concrete means.

So full of hate

"People are so vindictive, so full of hatred, nowadays," says Dr. Shakuntala Vaswani, a founding member of the Peacemakers Circle.

"We badly need peace and it should begin with each of us."

The idea of forming the circle of peace began in 1998 when Africa met Mario Fungo, a Catholic Christian working for a non-governmental organization. Fungo had just arrived from an extraordinary global inter-religious summit dubbed "United Religions Initiative" in San Francisco, and was beside himself with excitement to share the "beauty" of the experience, Africa recalls.

Language of prayer

The summit gathered hundreds of people of diverse religions worldwide to make them better understand each other's faiths, and thus propagate peace.

Still overwhelmed by the experience, Fungo, who was wearing a summit souvenir shirt, told Africa:

"It was so beautiful. Everybody was speaking the same language, the language of prayer that came straight from the heart."

The shirt inspired Africa as much as Fungo's words touched her heart. Printed on the shirt was an image of a globe connecting other images representing various religions.

It could be done, Africa told herself. And so, the Peacemakers Circle was born.

Africa and Fungo began organizing small prayer groups composed of people from different religions. In casual discussions, they would talk just about anything under the sun, from the most pressing issue to the most common everyday experience.

Vaswani, chair of the Philippine Hindu Temple, got wind of the informal gatherings and paid a visit.

She wanted to correct the many misconceptions about her religion, which had somehow been reduced by narrow-minded Filipinos into a historical artifact or a textbook chapter.

"Members of other religions and Hindus have a lot to learn from each other," she says. "We just have to be open."

Strangers became friends

Strangers usually walked into to the group's prayers and discussions, some out of curiosity and others in search of an escape from the stress of everyday living, according to Africa.

"They needed breathing space where they could forget about conflicts and just talk about peace."

Still without a name, the group soon had a sizeable membership that enabled it to organize "Kapayapaan ng Bukang Liwayway" on Dec. 31, 1999.

While many anticipated the so-called millennium bug or even the end of the world, people from different religions participated in a forum organized by the group to achieve "a new era of peace and ending an era of violence," according to Africa.

PEACEMAKERS Circle (founder Marites Africa at center): Religion should unite, not divide. JOAN BONDOC

After the forum, more people joined the group. The Peacemakers Circle was born in January last year.

Today, the group has members representing Islam, Hindu, Easter Orthodox, Buddhism, Hare Krishna, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, the Catholic Church and other religions.

One doesn't need to be a member to participate in the circle's activities. "As long as they believe in peace, our door is open to them," Africa says.

The magnet that pulled members into the circle was its determination to find peace through the singular experience that unites all of humanity—religion.

34 ongoing wars

The observation of Bishop William Swing of California on war and religion has become a pillar of the circle's advocacy.

"Of the 34 wars going on in the world, religion is involved in virtually every one, a scandal that continues to undermine the spiritual message and the moral credibility of all religious institutions.

"Religion has not only a calling but a clear moral responsibility to act for peace in these circumstances."

But how is peace obtained and propagated through religion?

The Peacemakers believe that human harmony, however abstract a term, is possible if only people would speak the universal language of peace, one that's taught by every religion.

"That means, we should think good and do good in our own little ways," Africa says.

"Peace is really hard to sell as an idea since it's not a commodity. It's a process that begins with the self, within us."

Meditation

Every Tuesday at 6 p.m., members and visitors gather in the Peacemakers third-floor unit on Annapolis Street in Greenhills to meditate. There they take a break from the rigors of daily routine and relax in silence, according to Africa.

She says inner peace is crucial if people are to spread peace to their neighbors.

On Saturdays, Peacemakers meet to dialogue about the burning issues of the day based on each other's religious and cultural perspectives.

At the height of the Mindanao kidnapping crisis last year, the circle conducted a discussion about the Abu Sayyaf Group. To the surprise of the organizers, nearly a hundred persons packed the Annapolis room, which can only accommodate around 30.

Each felt so strongly about the issue. Many were curiously supportive of the Abu Sayyaf. A Muslim, who had a gun tucked in his waist, argued that the group was a product of the long-running neglect of Mindanao and the "persecution" of Muslims throughout the country, Africa recalls.

Others of different persuasions listened intently to the Muslim man, though they themselves believed that the Abu Sayyaf was an aberration of the Muslim faith, she says.

Sharing, sympathy

"That's the way it is here," Vaswani says. "We allow people to share while others listen with sympathy, just like what friends do."

A key element of the Peacemakers advocacy is the promotion of friendship and understanding among Muslims and Christians through a series of dialogues.

This is particularly important today in the midst of the reported indiscriminate arrests of Muslims as part of the global crackdown on terrorism, according to Africa.

"There's so much stereotyping these days. People are quick to condemn Muslims as terrorists, and it's very wrong."

Every week, Muslims and Christians in Metro Manila and the peripheral provinces meet at the Greenhills room for a dialogue called "Ikhwa-Kapatiran Alay sa Kapayapaan" (Brotherhood/Sisterhood for Peace).

The circle also conducts a series of lectures to orient the public about the Islamic culture, beliefs and practices.

After each visit to the Peacemakers sanctuary, people are not at all expected to become preachers, but believers that peace is still possible.

So that the next time they see a bearded man with a chocolate skin, they won't look at him with contempt.

As the Golden Rule says: "Do not do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you."

Last Chinese hostage freed . . .

(From page A1)

tary rescue operation. Wang Shengli was wounded in the firefight but was rescued when he played dead.

Government negotiators recently worked out the release of Filipino guide, Edwin Lim.

Soldiers hunted down the Pentagon gang, made up of rogue Moro rebels, and killed several kidnappers in Sultan Kudarat province.

The gang was unheard of until the kidnapping of the Chinese engineers, all employees of China Import-Export Power Technologies that was contracted to build the Malitugog-Maridagao irrigation project in Carmen, Cotabato.

The military earlier said the members of the Pentagon gang were MILF guerrillas.

Disowned

Kabalu, however, said the MILF had nothing to do with the kidnappers.

Kabalu said Al-haj Murad, chief MILF negotiator in ongoing peace talks with the government, "directed the MILF to facilitate the release immediately." Murad, MILF vice chair for military affairs, issued the order on Thursday after the signing in Kuala Lumpur of an accord to strengthen a ceasefire with the government.

Kabalu said China sought the assistance of Malaysia and Libya in securing the release the hostages. Malaysia and Libya then asked the MILF to contact the Pentagon gang.

Both Malaysia and Libya are brokering peace talks between Manila and the MILF. The Libyan government, and some Malaysians, have helped secure the release of hostages held by Moro bandits in the past.

Ransom

Kabalu said he didn't know if ransom was paid for Zhang's release. MILF sources, however, said "money changed hands" but they would not give details.

"We got what we wanted," Pentagon spokesperson Faizal Marohombsar said but declined to say how much money his gang got.

Still, the Libyan ambassador insisted that no ransom had been paid.

"The Libyan Embassy will provide humanitarian assistance if they (the kidnappers) surrender to the government and form themselves into a cooperative," Adem said.

In the past, hostages held by Moro kidnappers have been freed in exchange for "livelihood assistance" or "boarding fees"—terms used to describe ransom payments.

'Assistance' package

The deal raised speculation that the Catholic Church may have to offer a similar "assistance" package to free Fr. Guiseppe Pierantoni, a 44-year-old Italian priest who was abducted in Zamboanga del Sur province on Wednesday.

The military said Piarantoni was kidnapped by Moro gunmen with links to the Pentagon gang.

Kabalu said the diocese in Zamboanga del Sur had contacted the MILF and asked the rebel group to negotiate for the priest's freedom.

"We are just waiting for the written formal communication of the Catholic Church so we can start these (talks). Of course, this is for humanitarian reasons," Kabalu said.

Two Americans and at least 10 Filipinos are being held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

Last year, the Libyan government helped negotiate the release of several foreigners taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf from a Malaysian beach resort. The Abu Sayyaf reportedly received millions of dollars in ransom. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

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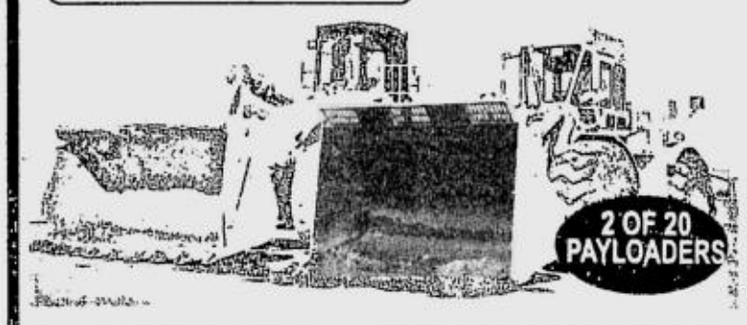
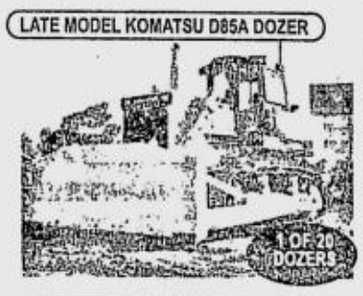
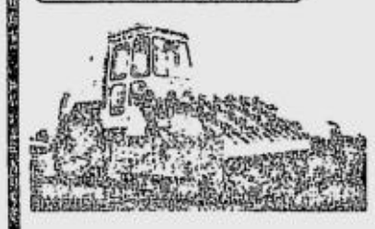


KOMATSU PC200 - 5 EXCAVATORS

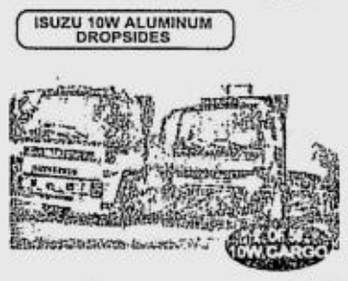
LATE MODEL KOMATSU D85A DOZER



DYNAPAC CA-25 VIBRO ROLLER



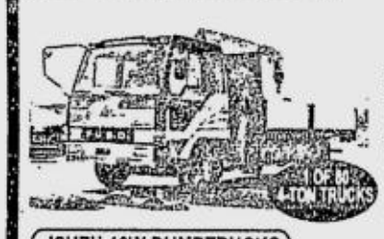
ISUZU 10W ALUMINUM DROPSIDES



ISUZU 10W TRANSIT MIXER

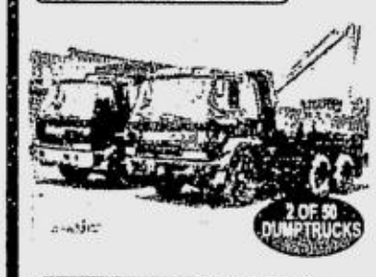
FUSO FIGHTER REF. VAN

FUSO FIGHTER DROPSIDE W/ CRANE

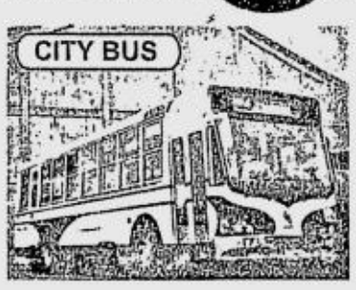


LATE MODEL ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE

ISUZU 10W DUMPTRUCKS

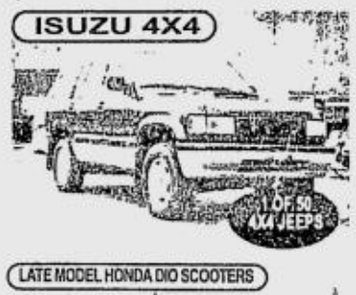


CITY BUS



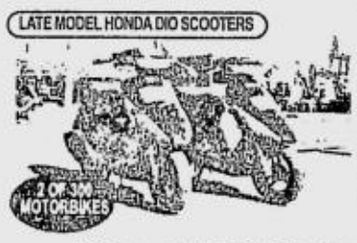
MISCELLANEOUS GENERATORS

ISUZU 4X4



TOYOTA LUCIDA VANS

LATE MODEL HONDA DIO SCOOTERS



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SundaySPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Capriati, Davenport advance

ZURICH— New world number one Jennifer Capriati and American compatriot Lindsay Davenport joined France's Natalie Tauziat and Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia in the semifinals of the $1.185-million WTA tournament here Friday. *AP*

PBA CUP

Alaska faces SMB today

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ALASKA resumes its climb atop the standings even as Purefoods and Pop Cola try to rediscover their old form today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

But the Aces, on a three-game streak, are expected to encounter rougher terrain during their 7:10 p.m. game against the San Miguel Beermen, who are slowly gathering the shattered pieces of their winning tradition.

The Panthers and the Hotdogs, both fumbling with three successive setbacks, cross paths in the curtain-raiser.

Bucking the absence of Danny Seigle, out of the eliminations due to back spasms, the Beermen had toppled their last two opponents—Pop Cola and Tanduay—to keep themselves on track for a quarterfinals slot at 4-4.

The Beermen edged the Panthers, 86-84, before running over the Rhummasters, 84-79, last week that lodged them in a tie with Red Bull.

The Aces share the Beermen's fate as they bolted out of a five-game winless record behind the heads-up performance of Ron Riley, a worthy replacement for the inefficient Dexter Boney.

Since Riley's arrival, the Aces have yet to lose a match that began in an out-of-town game in Cebu City against Tanduay followed by convincing victories over Red Bull and Purefoods.

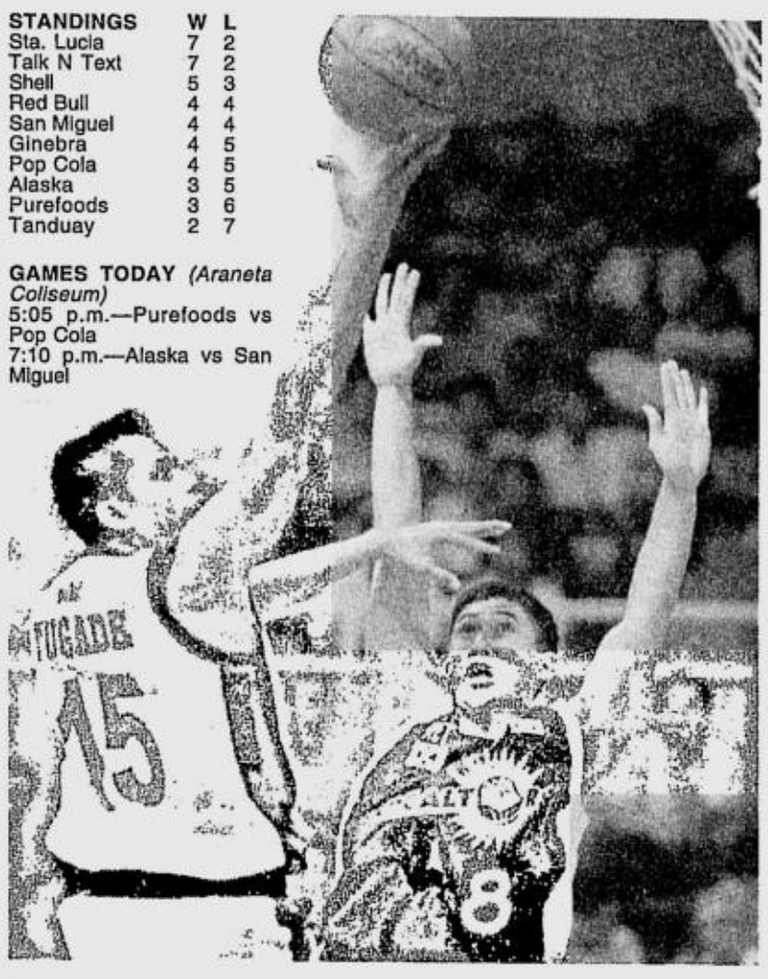
"Right now, our only goal is to make it to the Magic 8 because definitely we're out of the top 4. We just have to score more victories and gather enough momentum going into the quarterfinals," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

But while the Aces improve every game, the Hotdogs seem to get worse by the day.

Meanwhile, Shell defeated Barangay Ginebra, 82-67, in an out-of-town game yesterday in Balanga Bataan. The Turbo Chargers improved to 5-3 while the Kings fell to 4-5 in a tie with Pop Cola.

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	7	2
Talk N Text	7	2
Shell	5	3
Red Bull	4	4
San Miguel	4	4
Ginebra	4	5
Pop Cola	4	5
Alaska	3	5
Purefoods	3	6
Tanduay	2	7

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:05 p.m.—Purefoods vs Pop Cola
7:10 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel



LORDY Tugade of Batang Red Bull (left) drives against Sta. Lucia Realty's Paolo Mendoza during their encounter Friday night. The Thunder won in overtime, 101-94. ROMY HOMILLADA

Knights tackle Marlins

COACH Francis Rodriguez has a ready answer when asked about the cause of Socsargen-Taguig Marlins' improvement in their last two games: The players' new attitude and better physical shape.

Rodriguez said the Marlins now look at a game with winning on their mind, unlike before when they were just going through the motions. He also noted that Alvin Teng and Alwyn Flores are now leaner and can run with the team.

Just how tough the Marlins have become will be known when they meet the Andok's San Juan Knights at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

Socsargen-Taguig gave LBC Batangas a scare before losing, 89-86, on Wednesday and then exacted revenge over Nueva Ecija, 106-92, on Friday to underscore its improvement.

If they play the same way, the Marlins are expected to give the Knights a harder time than in their first cohesion which the Knights won, 94-82.

Still, the national and First Phase titlist Knights are favored to do a repeat. *Roy Luarca*

Japan rookie up at Disney

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Kaname Yokoo, a PGA Tour rookie from Japan, had a 7-under 65 on Friday and wound up with a one-stroke lead over Jerry Smith at the halfway point of the National Car Rental Classic at Disney World.

The 29-year-old player doesn't have the flashy smile of countryman Shigeki Maruyama and doesn't wear outrageous cowboy hats like Shingo Kayatama. He certainly doesn't have their credentials, at No. 186 in the world ranking.

But he has the lead at 13-under 131, and now gets to experience what it's like to have Davis Love III, David Toms, Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods on his heels.

"By Sunday, he might be caught up to me," Yokoo said of Woods, who had a 67 and was five strokes out of the lead. *AP*

Irishman shows way

ST ANDREWS, Scotland—Paul McGinley of Ireland shot two successive eagles on his second nine for a 64 over the Old Course Friday to take a two-stroke lead in the Dunhill Links Championship.

After starting his second round on the 10th hole of the fabled layout at St. Andrews, McGinley played his first nine in 3-under-par, then eagled the 4th and 5th holes on the course.

WGAP LEG

Sta. Elena shines

STA. ELENA dominated the eighth and final leg of the Callaway-sponsored Women's Golf Association of the Philippines circuit at its homecourse recently to lead the four teams which will vie for overall honors next month.

Sta. Elena, the circuit's defending overall champion, won two of the three division honors to emerge as the eliminations topnotcher in runaway fashion.

Also making it to the three-day grand finals where the permanent overall championship trophy designed by noted artist Impy Pilapil will be a stake are Riviera, Villamor and Alabang.

There will be three different courses for the finals with each team fielding tandems in aggregate, scramble, bestball and alternate shots.

The team of Alice Jose, Carina Ricamonte, Venice Godio and Rio Co won the Class A plum for Sta. Elena with 150 points, beating Canlubang by four with Alabang coming in third eight points behind.

Another Sta. Elena team made up of Len Yaptangco, Lucy Sy, Abby Tayao and Lily Chan overpowered a Navy squad by 20 and Riviera by 19.

Seniors meet Oct. 25-26

A FIELD of 150 senior golfers have confirmed their participation in the inaugural Alabang Senior Golfers Association (Asga) Cup at the Alabang Country Club course on Oct. 25-26.

The huge cast which is a combination of Asga members and their guests will dispute tournament and raffle prizes totalling P600,000 plus a Weinstein Piano for a hole-in-one feat.

The first Asga Cup takes the place of the annual Enzo Golf Club and is considered as the senior version of Alabang's annual Mango Tee.

The early sponsors include Fortune Tobacco, Asga member Haji Andi Tabusalla of Indonesia, Hans Brumann of Brumann Jewelers, Volvo, Nestle Philippines and Sharexchange.

No-shoot for Jordan

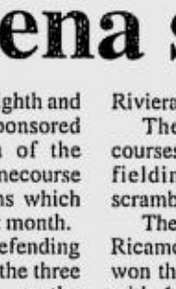
WASHINGTON — There was a new rule Friday during a Washington Wizards scrimmage: Michael Jordan wasn't allowed to shoot.

A day after Jordan's teammates stood around and waited for him to perform during a 114-88 exhibition loss to Detroit, Jordan and coach Doug Collins wanted to put a stop to that in a hurry. *AP*

Horse racing terrorists

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva



IT'S now exactly a week ago since Silver Story got mired in another questionable loss.

Ron Mendoza of Tondo, Manila e-mailed us a very timely comment regarding that incident which happened during the Three-Year-Old Colts race of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup 2 racing festival at San Lazaro. Here it is:

Dear Sir,

I just would like to comment on what I think was another scam perpetrated by the group behind Silver Story (this horse is becoming more tainted and notorious as racing days go by).

The first scam was the race where Sonata won. The second happened last Oct. 14 during the Philtobo racing festival. Again, the gang behind Silver Story let the horse run even though they knew it was out of form. They can't say that an accident happened during the running because Silver Story was sluggish even at the start of the race, coming out of the gates last. Even Dixie Dancer, a stayer and far inferior horse, outjumped Silver Story.

What added to the insult was Jockey JB Hernandez's refusal to be interviewed, reasoning out that he's too sad, depressed and probably even suicidal. My eye! This young man thinks all racing fans are stupid.

His feeling dejected, if it's true, was the best reason for him to consent to an interview so racegoers (who are the ones really feeling depressed because their hard-earned money vanished with Silver Story's dismal performance) would see the pain in his face, the tears in his eyes and would hear the crack in his voice. That would ease their suffering.

The reason I think for JB Hernandez's sudden fear of the TV camera was that he's afraid he couldn't control himself laughing out aloud during the interview. Maybe he didn't think he could restrain himself from blurting out "Nyuk! Nyuk! Nyuk! Naisahan na naman namin kayong mga mananaya!"

But really, racing fans will greatly appreciate if Mr. Eduardo Domingo Jr. and his group will interview jockeys of horses who won as expected and those who lost miserably.

The racing public has the right to know what happened. *Bakit ang kabayong ito na kapapanalo lang ng* many lengths *ay tatalunin ng kalaban na kulelat sa karerang pinanalunan niya?*

May nakakalat bang anthrax powder *sa* racetrack *at nalanghap ito ng paboritong kabayo*? The panelists can probably ask the jockey point-blank?" The jockey might get startled and answer: *"Oho, 'yon ho kasi ang bilin ng may ari. Hindi naman daw ho ako masususpindi dahil nakatimbre."*

The interviewer can then curse him. Beleaguered racing fans badly need somebody who will commiserate with them.

The world's stamping out nasty terrorists. Maybe those in the industry should also start getting rid of horseracing terrorists.

But alas, incompetent is one of the many words that best describe racing stewards these days.

Good day and God bless, sir.

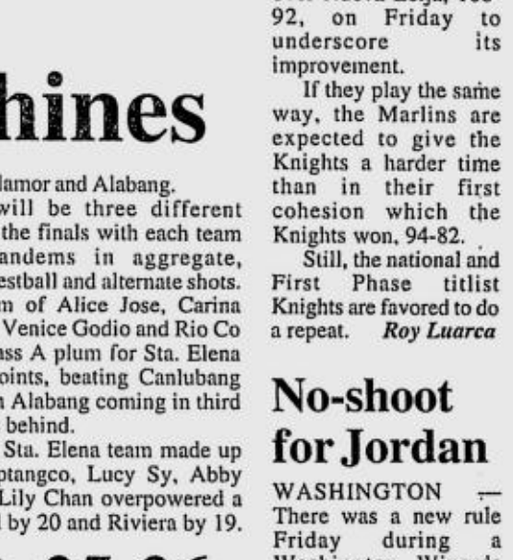
RON MENDOZA

Tondo, Manila (ron_men37@yahoo.com)

Hermoso eyes Toyota racing title

ROLAND Hermoso of Standard Insurance-KACE-Toyota Alabang-Petron tries to formalize his claim to the overall championship in the 2001 Formula-Toyota Cup-centerpiece event at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas this weekend.

Unable to wrap up the championship in the previous leg last month, Hermoso seeks the decisive win in the season-ending races organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and presented by Shell, Toyota, Kilton Motors, NorkisYamaha, MOF Company, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, CGU Insurance, Llumar, Shell Helix, Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard.



MITRA CUP
Businessman Myther Buñag (left) receives a replica of the Mitra Cup from Philtobo director Raymund Puyat after Ilocandia Slew won the Three-Year-Old Fillies race of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup 2 Festival last week at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. Buñag co-owns Ilocandia Slew with Tony Boy Eleazar.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Accurized 2. Cherry Lane 3. Spectacular Queen 4. Free Time
Race 3—1. I Love You 2. Perfect Storm 3. Vigor
Race 4—1. Secret Currency 2. Hydrogas 3. Mr. Speaker 4. Master Strategist 5. Good Quality
Race 5—1. Family Task 2. The Fox 3. Charlemagne 4. Sonata
Race 6—1. Windy City 2. Burning Light 3. Irish Star 4. Letshaveaparty 5. Exceptional Charm
Race 7—1. Free Magic 2. Lucky El 3. Photogenic 4. Beatitudes 5. Arya Girl
Race 8—1. Staunch Ally 2. Sky Hawk 3. Materiales Fuertes
Race 9—1. Respect the Ace 2. Beauty and Grace 3. War General 4. Demolition Jack 5. Miss Sleween 6. Pep Talk
Race 10—1. Lyonnais 2. Serena 3. Bound to Be 4. Gold Pyramid
Race 11—1. Marginal Note 2. Boomerang 3. Golden Prince 4. Yoko Lady 5. Dynamite Jack
Race 12—1. Morning Glory 2. Clear Sky/Something Different 3. Bohemyo 4. Moving Target 5. Suterian Era
Race 13—1. Be Quiet 2. Sparkling Sky 3. Dixie Dancer 4. My Indy
Race 14—1. Race for Gold 2. Gold Honors 3. Little Timothy 4. Precious Moment 5. Ang Seaman 6. Noble House

Arizona takes 2-1 lead over Atlanta

ATLANTA—Curt Schilling gave his most complete performance yet.

Schilling beat the Atlanta Braves with his arm, bat and bruising baserunning, giving the Arizona Diamondbacks a 5-1 victory Friday night and a 2-1 lead in the NL championship series.

"I just seized the moment," he said.

Schilling pitched his third straight complete game of this postseason, throwing a four-hitter and striking out 12.

Schilling also singled to start a key burst and kept it going by bowling over catcher Javy Lopez.

"When the light seems to be shining the brightest, when he expects the most out of himself, when we expect the most out of him, he exceeds even what we expected," Arizona manager Bob Brenly said.

"I don't know if there are any superlatives left for Curt Schilling," he said.

Coming off two big games against St. Louis in the first round, Schilling mixed a 98 mph fastball and a sharp splitter to shut down the Braves. He's 3-0 with an 0.67 in this year's playoffs.

"I've never thrown better in more important games," he said. "I think it's pretty obvious."

Schilling also added a bit of rough 'n tumble during a play at the plate in a three-run fifth inning.

"I'd like to say I thought of that before it happened, but it was a spur of the moment thing," Schilling said.

Atlanta totally fell apart in the field during that game-breaking burst, forgetting to cover bases and failing to catch the ball.

At least the Braves did not hear a lot of boos from their fans, and there was a good reason. The crowd of 41,624 at Turner Field was about 9,000 short of a sellout, leaving the ballpark atmosphere not nearly as juiced as it has been for the ALCS between Seattle and the Yankees.

Steve Finley drove in three runs and Craig Counsell, reprising his role as a playoff star, had three hits and a key sacrifice bunt against losing pitcher John Burkett. *AP*

Sampras beaten

STUTTGART, Germany—Pete Sampras' long wait for another tournament title was extended Friday when he lost to qualifier Max Mirnyi 6-4, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the Stuttgart Masters Series.

Mirnyi hit 11 aces to set up a semifinal meeting with fifth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who beat Thomas Enqvist 7-5, 6-4.

US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt extended his winning streak to 17, the longest on the tour this year, by beating Wayne Ferreira 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-2. *AP*

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Sta. Lucia tilt in Cebu today

STA. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. will hold a big sports competition in Cebu City today (Oct. 21) to kick off the inauguration of the Vistamar clubhouse.

The whole-day event will comprise a six-kilometer fun run within the estate, tennis, kayaking, swimming, billiards, dip-and-dash (which combines a 4k-kayaking and 3k-running), billiards and darts challenges at its beach development which will be open to sports enthusiasts of Metro Cebu.

To rally the Cebuanos, national athletes based in Manila will join the events. Among them are former RP Youth Team member Fritz Tabora, top tennister Clemente Cabrera and Arafura Games veteran James Dumoran.

Vistamar Residential Estate and Beach Club is jointly undertaken by Sta. Lucia Realty with its landowner Aznar Enterprises Inc. Membership shares for the Vistamar Beach Club are handled by Orchard Property Marketing Corp.

To lead the unveiling ceremonies on Oct. 21 is Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Boy Radaza. For inquiries, call Vistamar at (032)340-5910 and 340 5919.

Ucap-Bacolod derby on tap

NEGROS Occidental's well-known gamefowl breeders are coming in full force to see action in the 7th Ucap-Bacolod Group 7-Stag Derby this coming Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 23 and 25, at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Derby hosts are Negros Occidental's dreaded derby champions Otik Geroso, Danilo Hinlo, John Capinpin, Jun Cometa and Boy Ledesma.

Aside from the anticipated rumble among UCAP, NCA and Negros cockers, also to be highlighted is the exciting race for the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2001. *Sabong* idol Patrick Antonio's Hammer Sagupaan is the current leader.

Submission of weights is on Monday, Oct. 22 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 534-2341.

Castrol-Ducati riders favored

ALL eyes will be on the Castrol-Ducati Manila riders at the close of the 12-part National Super Bike Series 2001 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas this weekend.

Former Rider of the Year Toti Alberto, Jose Reyes IV and Lindsay Thomas Ryan will vie for top honors in both the expert open and novice categories in this prestigious event, widely considered as the national road racing championships

Alberto, who ended perennial rival Jolet Jao's reign as super bike champion with a smashing triumph in 1999, will ride his Ducati 748R anew during the season-ending races being supervised by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

"Like the previous legs, we'll give our best during the races and hopefully, continue the team's winning tradition this year," said Alberto, who attributed his team's creditable performance to the all-out support of sponsors like Castrol and Ducati.

Maxi scooter 5th round fires off

THE FIFTH and final round of the 2001 Maxi Scooter Series presented by Elf Lubricants will be held today 21 with Carlo Yalo of Exact Racing-Castrol and Alfie Lim of Castrol favored to clinch the overall titles in their respective categories at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Yalo, who redeemed himself from previous setbacks with a smashing triumph in the fourth round in Batangas two months ago, seek another win and the overall title in the 20-man geared category.

Also the runaway winner of the first and second rounds held in Subic, Yalo has a commanding 11-point lead over defending champion Geoffrey Ballesteros, 75-64, based on the 25-20-16-13-11 scoring system.

A close third is Miguel Bichara of Team Elf-Malossi with 56 points, followed by Ritchie Abrina with 43 points and Ricky Montelibano of Team 2211 -Elf with 36 points.

The highest-placed female rider is Ali Cormish of team No Fear in sixth place with 26 points.

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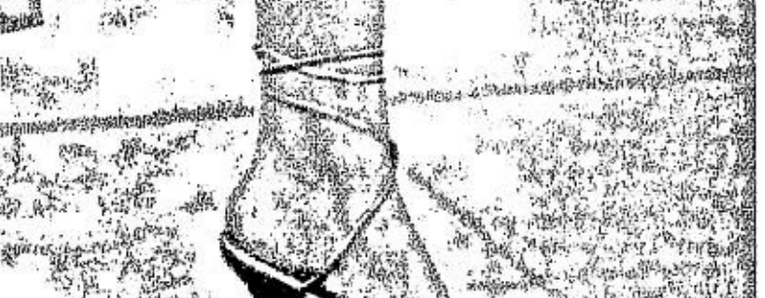
Week 5 winner	₱75,000.00	Glorabel Imperial of Naga City
Week 6 winner	₱75,000.00	Earl Richardson Chua of Parañaque City



Key in QUIZspaceJOINspace <name>/<address>. Send to 288. You will then receive this.

SMART Simply Amazing!

GOLD buddy TIKMAN

■ Workers to press for P125 A22
■ Outstanding midwives honored as 'true heroes' A23

BOYS AT 'WAR'
Scouts cheer as Bulacan Rep. Francisco Anlag Jr., who is the acting Boy Scouts of the Philippines acting national president, declares that the BSP is joining the global war against drugs as well as the world's prayer for peace during the opening of the month-long celebration of the BSP's 65th anniversary.

NBI revives task force against kidnapping

BY JEROME ANING

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has revived its own anti-kidnapping task force to help the government campaign against kidnapping for ransom.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told reporters that the bureau's Anti-Kidnap Task Force (AKTF) would be an autonomous unit which would involve 10 NBI units.

Wycoco said one of the main purposes of the anti-kidnapping task force is to gather intelligence information on kidnapping syndicates.

The new task force would also draw up a watch-list of suspected kidnappers, supporters and their financiers in the country, he said.

The task force would coordinate with the National Anti-Crime Commission in the campaign against kidnapping, he said.

Tapped to head the AKTF is NBI deputy director for intelligence services Samuel Ong, Wycoco said. Wycoco said the task force would be subdivided into intelligence, investigation and support units.

Included in the intelligence support group are the Field Operations Division, the Criminal Records Investigation Division, the Criminal Investigation Division, and the Intelligence Services Operations Division.

The investigation group includes the Special Task Force, Special Action Unit and Anti-Organized Crime Division.

They've come a long way since leaving the orphanage

BAUTISTA

DE LEON

TALES OF THE CITY

BY MICHELLE V. REMO

GROWING up without a regular family doesn't always mean a bleak future, as two orphans have learned.

Constantino Bautista, 88, and Ma. Luisa Acuzar-De Leon, 49, were sent to Mandaluyong City's Welfareville, which used to be a complex of welfare institutions that included an orphanage, because their parents couldn't afford to rear them.

Bautista, now a retired president of Filipinas Bank, and De Leon, an aide to the president of a wheat corporation, say they owe much of their success to the values they learned in the orphanage.

Bautista now donates to an orphanage. De Leon sponsors an orphan's education through a foundation.

De Leon says the help she gives to the child brings her fulfillment since she knows the real value of such support.

THEY'VE COME/ A22

QC is safest, or so CPD says

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

QUEZON City, where killings and robberies have been taking place, is the safest place to live in Metro Manila?

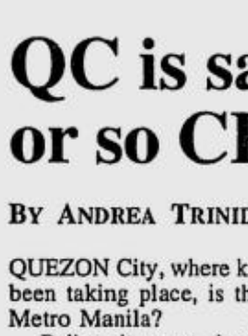
Believe it or not, that is what the Central Police District would like people to believe as it released statistics last week showing a 17 percent decline in crime incidents in the first nine months of the year as compared with the same period last year.

Apparently to prove that it was not sleeping on its job, the CPD revealed the crime statistics a day after the district director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, reshuffled the assignments of nine senior officials.

Tor virtually admitted that some of the officials had become complacent in their jobs and so he had to make changes.

QC IS SAFEST/ A22

Encarnacion dies at 53



ENCARNACION

NOTED hair and makeup stylist Jun Encarnacion died yesterday at the UST Hospital in España, Manila. He was 53.

Encarnacion owned a chain of beauty parlors that made him a well-known figure in the beauty industry. He also dabbled in acting on TV and the movies. Three years ago, he was found to have cancer of the intestines, according to his publicist.

His remains lie at the Arlington Funeral Homes along Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Encarnacion is survived by his wife Eleonor and a son. He will be buried at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park in Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City.

Leah Salterio

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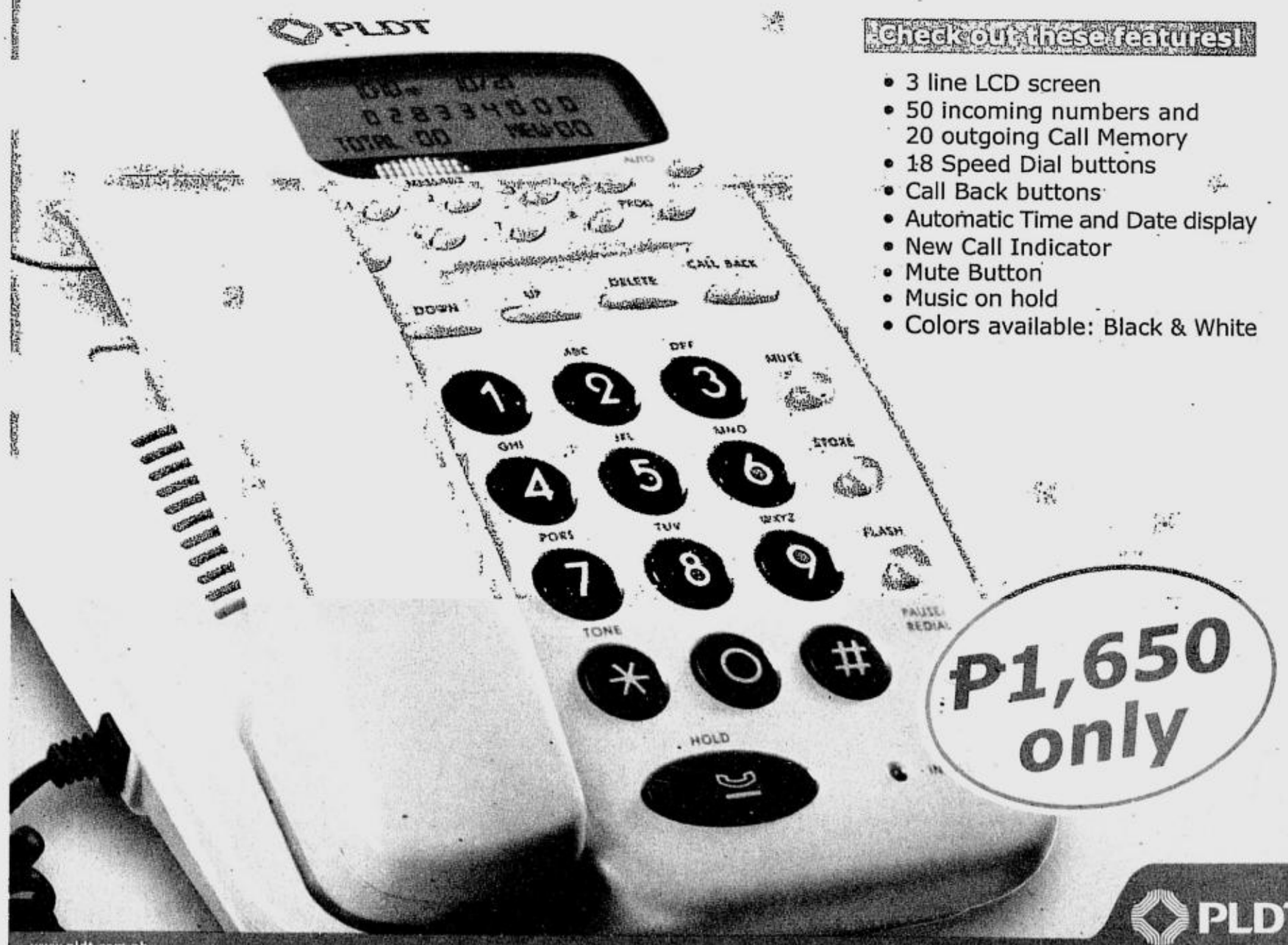

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Business sector joins opposition to tax plan

BY ALCUIN PAPA

OPPOSITION to the plan to increase real estate taxes in Makati City grew as residents and business groups expressed their objections to the proposal during a public hearing held in city hall.

The Makati Commerical Estate Authority (MCEA), the Makati Chamber of Commerce and residents voiced their opposition during the public hearing.

MCEA representative Cesar Campos told the hearing that his group was calling for a moratorium on any real estate tax increase.

This was seconded by a representative of the MCC who asked that the proposal to raise the taxes be deferred.

A woman resident suggested that the proposal to grant an amnesty on penalties and interest for delinquent real estate taxpayers be implemented instead of imposing new tax rates.

Councilor Divina Jacome, head of the city council committee on finance, said the council would "look into it (amnesty proposal)."

Jacome and Councilor Oscar Ibay of the committee on rules presided over the hearing.

The council also told those opposed to the proposed tax increases to submit their position papers within one week, after which the council en banc would decide on the matter.

The proposed real estate tax increases, outlined in draft Ordinances 2001-46 up to 48, hope to raise funds for projects of the city government to "uplift the life of its constituents," the council said.

None of the projects were presented to the public during the hearing.

Residents of the various posh villages in Makati have expressed their objection to the proposed ordinances. They said increasing real estate taxes would be burdensome to them given the present economic conditions.

Jacome explained that the council wants to pass any one of the three proposed ordinances.

But lawyer Tommy Toledo, spokesperson of the village associations, said any of the three would still mean an increase.

Jacome said Makati already has the lowest assessment levels among cities in Metro Manila and the tax increases would only make them at par with other cities.

Toledo told the Inquirer in a phone interview: "Why increase real estate taxes when you can collect collectibles?"

He also called on the council to "explore other sources of revenues."

Pasay man arrested for robbing policeman

BY ALCUIN PAPA

"I DIDN'T know it was the house of a policeman. If I knew, I would not have robbed it."

This was the lame statement that Edgar Surdelya gave to police after he was arrested for burglarizing the house of SPO1 Wilfredo Hidalgo on Ibarra Street in Pasay City.

SPO1 Nonilon Francisco of the Pasay Police Criminal Investigation Division said Surdelya, 25, also of Ibarra Street, was caught by the victim himself.

Hidalgo, 34, was on duty at the National Capital Region Police Office, when the thief broke into his house about midnight Friday.

When Hidalgo got home about 10 a.m. yesterday, he found his door forced open and the place in disarray, SPO1 Francisco said.

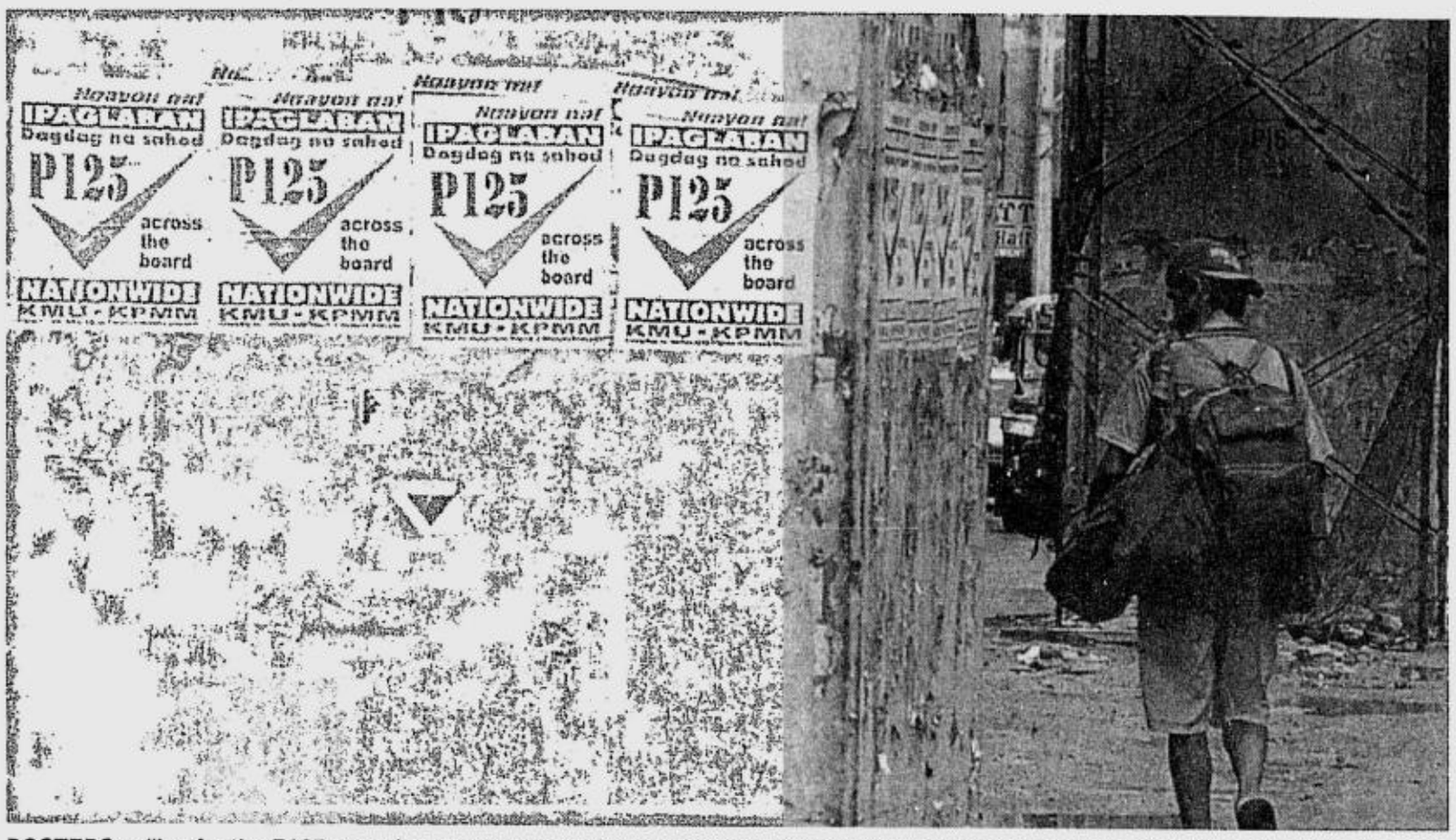
Hidalgo discovered that the P24,000 he was supposed to send to his relatives in the province was missing, along with his cell phone and other valuables.

The policeman immediately asked his neighbors if they saw anything suspicious the night before. One Fidel Decena told Hidalgo that he saw the suspect leaving the house with some appliances.

Hidalgo immediately went to Surdelya's house and found the suspect in a drunken stupor. With the help of other neighbors, Hidalgo arrested the suspect and took him to the Pasay police station.

Under interrogation, Surdelya admitted to the theft and said he did not know at the time that the house he had hit belonged to a policeman.

But Hidalgo was unable to recover his cell phone, cash and valuables because the suspect sold the items and used the money to get drunk, investigators said.



POSTERS calling for the P125 wage increase are posted on walls along Legarda Street in Manila, near Mendiola where workers are set to demonstrate. TOOTS SOBERANO

Workers to press for ₱125

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

AT LEAST 30,000 workers in Metro Manila will march to Malacañang next week to demand for a P125-wage increase and denounce the P30 staggered allowance granted by the labor department, according to organizers.

Labor leaders also announced that on Oct. 25, simultaneous protest actions will be staged in key cities and provinces all over the country, to be led by affiliates of the Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Wage Increase Solidarity (WINS).

In the weekly Kapihan sa Cypress, labor leaders condemned what they called the anti-labor policy of the Macapagal-Arroyo government.

KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said workers, both in and out of the private sector, would be mounting what he described as the year's biggest labor rally on Thursday.

"The government shows no hint of concern for workers," the labor leader said. "(The workers') suffering and hunger is so evident, and yet labor agencies still prioritize the interests of big business owners.

"Only a government that is ultimately callous to the people's plight could (betray) the workers."

KMU secretary general Elmer Labog said the indifference of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration was evident when it announced, through the regional wage board, the granting of a P30 daily cost of living allowance for Metro Manila workers.

This was a far cry from the P125 across-the-board increase sought by labor groups.

Labog also accused government of virtually condoning the aversion of employers and capitalists to raise the workers' wages.

"This is not an actual increase in wages but a grave insult and mockery of the workers' right to receive decent and adequate wages," Labog said.

He added that government's policy of freezing wages, and keeping these to the lowest and "almost inhumane levels," only showed its unrelenting submission to foreign dictated neo-liberal policies.

"In reality, the P30 allowance would not be reflected as an increase in the workers' basic pay, overtime pay and 13th month pay," Labog said. "The amount is so meager, it is not even enough (for) a laborer's family to subsist on even just for a day."

WINS spokesperson Manny Sarmiento said workers would insist in pushing for the P125 across-the-board increase for private workers.

"The amount is not even worth the crumbs on the tables of capitalists," Sarmiento said.

He said granting the workers' demand for a wage increase would amount to a "little sacrifice" for capitalists.

QC is 'safest,' or so CPD...

(From page A21)

He said the officials had become too familiar with their subordinates, which led to what he called a vacuum in the execution of duties.

High-profile crimes were committed in the city in the past few weeks, including the daring daytime heist at SM North Edsa, the ambush-killing of two Chinese-Filipino businessmen and the kidnap-slay of a sister-in-law of Uratex owner Robert Cheng.

These were apart from the illegal drug trade and petty crime cases.

According to the CPD data, the total crime volume went down to 3,077 from January to September this year from 3,724 during the same period last year.

Index crimes, or crimes perpetrated against persons or properties, went down by 13 percent or by 272 incidents from 1,993 last year to 1,721 this year.

For non-index crimes, or crimes involving violations of special laws, the total volume went down by 21 percent or by 375 incidents.

Homicide cases, though, went up 25 percent or from 35 cases in the first nine months of the year 2000 to 44 cases in the same period this year.

Surprisingly, despite numerous complaints of cases of cellular phone snatching, the CPD reported a 15 percent decline in robbery cases, or from 551 during the period in 2000 to 534 this year.

Rape cases also went down dramatically by 37 percent during the first nine months of this year, from 70 cases in 2000 to 44 cases this year, according to the CPD data.

The average monthly crime rate, or the occurrence of crime incidents for every 100,000 population, went down from 20.457 percent last year to 17.190 this year.

Crime solution efficiency was 94.20 percent, or 1.70 percent less than last year's 95.90 percent rate, the CPD data said.

Chief Insp. Bart Bustamante, acting CPD information chief, said: "We are definitely not sleeping on the job as the statistics would show. The recent revamp should also assure the public that we have stepped up our efforts to bring down the number of crime incidents."

Insiders admitted, however, that the spate of high-profile crimes in the past weeks caught some CPD officials flat-footed, causing their reshuffle.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 21, 2001
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 17:8-13

When the Israelites were at Rephidim, the Amalekites came and attacked them. So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites in the morning. As for me, I will stand with God's staff in my hand at the top of the hill."

Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had directed, while Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. It happened that when Moses raised his hands, the Israelites would win but when he lowered them, the Amalekites would have the advantage.

As Moses' arms grew weary they placed a stone for him to sit on while Aaron and Hur on either side held up his arms, which remained steadily raised until sunset. For his part Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the sword.

2nd Reading: 2 Tim 3:14–4:2

As for you, continue with what you have learned and what has been entrusted to you, knowing from whom you received it. Besides, you have known the Scriptures from childhood; they will give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, refuting error, for correcting and training in Christian life. Through Scripture the man of God is made expert and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by the hope I have of his coming and his kingdom, I urge you to preach the Word, in season and out of season, reproving, rebuking or advising, always with patience and providing instruction.

Gospel: Lk 18:1-8

• Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should pray continually and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor people. In the same town was a widow who kept coming to him, saying: 'Defend my rights against my opponent.' For a time he refused, but finally he thought: 'Even though I neither fear God nor care about people, this widow bothers me so much I will see that she gets justice; then she will stop coming and wearing me out.'"

And Jesus explained, "Listen to what the evil judge says. Will God not do justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night even if he delays in answering them? I tell you, he will speedily do them justice. Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Commentary:

In the patriarchal society of our Lord, the widow was among the unfortunate. When she had a case, she had no man to represent her before the court. Only men handled court cases. Here, the victim of injustice is a helpless widow. There is another, even more serious, obstacle. The judge is unbelieving and unjust. This makes it doubly difficult for a just hearing. Yet, for his personal expediency, the dishonest judge finally gives in to the widow due to her persistence. The lesson is clear. If an unjust judge could grant justice out of a widow's persistent pleading, how much more will God, the loving Father, hear our persevering prayer! Just persist in prayer. Prayer can lead you to desired results.

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They've come a long way...

(From page A21)

Discipline

Bautista's father died when he was 9 years old. But before he died, the father told his elder son to place Constantino in a Makati orphanage. Bautista's mother, a housewife, couldn't support him.

The 50-hectare Welfareville Compound opened in 1927, with Dr. Jose Fabella as social welfare director, to integrate different welfare institutions into one complex. It included an orphanage, a home for the aged, "training houses" for delinquent boys and girls and a shelter for the children of lepers.

That same year, Bautista and the rest of the orphans in the Makati orphanage were transferred to Welfareville.

"At 5:30 a.m. we would prepare for school," Bautista recalls. "We would fix our beds, eat breakfast, clean our tables. We used to go to Jose Fabella (a public school within the compound). Everything was provided us for free."

After school, they did their homework and household chores. Guardians kept watch over them and instilled in them a sense of discipline, he says.

Angeles Dawal, who was a security guard at the boys' training house in the 1940s, says the building had a school offering free education for the boys.

Not inferior

Due to financial problems, De Leon's parents sent five of their 10 offspring to the Welfareville orphanage in 1959. The five other children stayed with the parents.

De Leon says she learned music and sports during her years in Welfareville. In Grade 2, she learned to play the guitar and the bandurya.

The Welfareville band was often tapped to play on TV shows and in Malacañang when then First Lady Imelda Marcos would call them to perform during special affairs.

"We would look forward to invitations," De Leon says. "We learned to mingle with people and we developed self-esteem. We never felt we were inferior to other kids."

She says their meals were programmed: "Underweight children would have vitamins. If you were underweight, you'd get eggs so you'd gain weight.

Education

Bautista engaged in sports. He was the captain ball of his batch's basketball team. Welfareville also had facilities for other sports, like a swimming pool, he recalls.

But among the Welfareville services, the most valuable was education, according to Bautista and De Leon.

"The education I got from Welfareville contributed much to what I would have after my release from the institution," says Bautista.

He remembers that when he was in third year high school, the Jose Fabella started to offer a commerce curriculum for second-year students. He pleaded with the school authorities to allow him to go back to second year so he could take up stenography and basic accounting. His request was granted.

After high school, he took up commerce at the Far Eastern University and later the civil service exam. He initially worked as a stenographer at the Bureau of Education. He would later get a clerical job in the auditing office of the Philippine National Bank.

In the 1940s, Constantino began his ascent on the corporate ladder. From audit clerk, he was promoted to auditor, then to assistant manager of the bank's credit department in 1949. He became the manager in 1956, assistant vice president in 1961, vice president of the foreign department in 1962, senior vice president in 1965, and finally executive vice president in 1975.

After he retired from the PNB, he was tapped to be the Filipinas Bank president.

Bautista is convinced that

THEY'VE/A23

METROBRIEFS

Drug-dealing ghoul

LIKE a ghoul, drug peddler Fernando de la Cruz, 37, preferred to conduct business in a mausoleum at Manila's North Cemetery. But his luck ran out yesterday when Manila policemen, who had been monitoring his illegal activities, arrested him in a buy-bust operation about 6 a.m. Chief Insp. Ferdinand Ampil of the Western Police District said his men seized shabu worth P2,000, four sachets of marijuana and a loaded 9-mm Daewoo pistol from De la Cruz, a resident of Binondo, Manila. ***Jerome Aning***

Robbed and abused

THE 27-YEAR-OLD sales coordinator and resident of Pandacan, Manila, not only lost more than P50,000 in cash to robbers in Makati City Friday night, she also almost lost her dignity when one of the suspects mashed her at gunpoint. The woman's weekend started off on a tearful note when she went to the Makati City police station and recounted how she was robbed while waiting for a taxi on Jupiter Street. She told police that about 6:30 p.m., three men on a motorcycle stopped in front of her, took out their pistols, grabbed her brown leather bag, and mashed her private parts before they fled. Aside from the cash, she also lost her cell phone, salary and jewelry which were inside her bag. ***Alcuin Papa***

In for life

MARION ABRIGO will spend the rest of his life in prison for raping the 14-year-old niece of his friend three years ago. Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Lilia Lopez on Friday also ordered Abrigo to pay the victim P125,000 in damages. On April 15, 1999, Abrigo knocked down the girl and raped her in her aunt's house when the two were left alone. Abrigo, of Kalayaan Village, Pasay City, threatened her not to tell anyone. But a month later, the girl told her aunt. ***Alcuin Papa***

Shooting and accident

TRICYCLE driver Percival Ty, 25, who was shot and wounded yesterday, tried to drive himself to the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital on Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, Manila. He could have made it to the hospital and lived, had he not lost consciousness and crashed into a tree. SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the city police homicide section said that while Ty was drinking with friends at the J&1 restaurant on Quiricada Street, he accidentally elbowed a man known only as "Bruno," which triggered an argument. Ty, a resident of Oroquieta Street, Sta. Cruz, was about to go home when Bruno shot him in the shoulder. Ty managed to start his tricycle to drive himself to the hospital. But blood loss and shock caused him to pass out. He was killed when his tricycle hit a large tree on Quiricada. Police are now looking for Bruno, said to be about 40, muscular and fair. ***Jerome Aning***

Outstanding midwives honored as 'true heroes'

TEN midwives were bestowed the Johnson & Johnson Outstanding Midwives Award of the Philippines during the Oct. 17 opening of the 27th annual convention of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) Inc. at the Olongapo City Convention Center.

Celsa Alpas, Anita Alojado, Nelly Amena, Purificacion Cagalpin, Rosa Chegyem, Vivian Dublado, Lerma Rafilo, Presentacion Sira, Fely Tabieros and Erlinda Tumaob were chosen for their exceptional services as frontline health workers in their communities.

Celsa S. Alpas is from Matalam, North Cotabato, where she is known as the "lady with the *lampara* (gas lamp)" for her midnight house calls on both Muslim and Christian soldiers who have been wounded in skirmishes. A private midwife, she has also guided her constituents to good health through regular immunization and seminars and trainings on proper health practices.

> 'We recognize the contribution you are giving to the country. For far too long you have served quietly and anonymously,' said Johnson & Johnson general manager Cresenciano Toledo

Private midwife Anita E. Alojado continues to look after her community in Davao City, Davao del Sur, using her own Well Family Midwife Clinic. One of her proudest accomplishments is the 60 percent decrease in her community's mortality rate the year she began conducting immunization schemes.

Nelly A. Amena of Hinigaran, Negros Occidental, harnessed her managerial skills to organize the barangay health workers in her area. One of the pioneers in the establishment of a lying-in clinic and the Botika sa Barangay in Hinigiran, Amena trains the barangay health workers.

Health scouts

The people of Sariaya, Quezon, have Purificacion L. Cagalpin to thank for their barangay health stations and the barangay health post.

Rosa T. Chegyem of Bontoc, Mountain Province, believes that awareness and a concerted effort are the best tools against disease and health problems. Aside from organizing community programs for mothers and children, she has been a principal implementor of the health scout program, which taps the youth as community health educators. Her campaign for immunization awareness effectively increased the number of fully immunized babies in her area by 100 percent.

The resolve of Vivian D. Dublado, of Panitan, Capiz, enabled the community to decrease the malnutrition rate enough for the Unicef to use Panitan as the pilot barangay for its health and nutrition post project. Dublado has also organized a rescue team for the flood area and spearheaded a project that provided toilet bowls and water pumps in one of her sitios.

Single-handed

Lerma D. Rafilo has served as a consistent force in health care for 40 years in Tayabas, Quezon, implementing government and complementary health programs. She literally helped build the barangay health station, leading the self-help construction of the concrete structure in 1976 and later on lobbying local officials for a better-equipped center.

Despite having put up and single handedly manning a maternity and lying-in clinic in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, Presentacion S. Sira successfully pursued a post-graduate course in community service at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila at the age of 58. She spearheads projects such as the Free Actual Platelet Count, Walking Blood Donor's Registry and bloodletting, and anti-dengue projects.

Fely C. Tabieros saw that difficulties in living in the remote, 5th class town of Sanchez Mira in Cagayan meant the need to coordinate with the residents, barangay leaders, local officials and NGOs in her area for the implementation of health programs. She did so successfully, improving the barangay health stations and implementing such projects as the barangay integrated development approach to nutrition improvement. The barangay had the best knock-out-polio setup in the region in 1996.

Model

The health center of Monkayo, Compostela Valley is a model unit of the Sentrong Sigla project, the municipal health care program of which Erlinda H. Tumaob is a principal proponent. Tumaob's influence on the people of Monkayo is a testament to her years of service, of making house-to-house immunization visits, and of organizing community health assemblies. She encourages women in her community to have regular check-ups and pap smears to ensure safe pregnancies and detect diseases early on.

Each awardee received P15,000 in cash, a trophy, an awardee pin, a special midwife's bag, one year's supply of Johnson & Johnson products, free registration, round-trip transportation and accommodations during the IMAP annual convention.

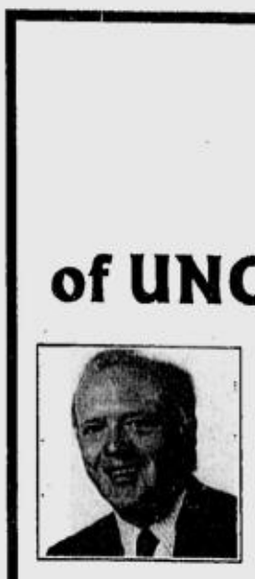
The Johnson Johnson Outstanding Midwives Award is one of the longest running awards programs in the country and is perhaps the longest running in the health care industry.

"Midwives are one of the main partners of the government in nation-building," Dr. Enrique Tayag, assistant regional director for Region III of the Department of Health, said in his speech during the awarding ceremony.

"You help us in keeping the Filipino people healthy and in bringing them together for the common goals of the community," Tayag added.

Tayag along with Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Alipio Fernandez, Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) Inc. president Alice de la Gente and Johnson & Johnson Philippines Inc. general manager Cresenciano Toledo presented the award and prizes to the midwives.

LEARN TO WALK THE TIGHT ROPE
of UNCERTAINTY, CONFLICT and RISK



Nov. 13, 2001 (Tuesday)
EFFECTIVE INFLUENCING SKILLS
Alan Barker, Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Strategic Consulting Services Inc. and Director, IMPACT Consultancy Group (SCS Philippine partner), will discuss the importance of influencing skills in leadership and identify the underlying motive, thought patterns and competencies needed in the skillful use of influence. He will illustrate how one can acquire these competencies and supporting skills for more effective leadership.

Nov. 14, 2001 (Wednesday)
EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION TECHNIQUES
Josie Santamaria, President, Career Systems, Inc., will talk about the nature of conflict and attitudes and behaviors of people in conflict, identify the best way to manage conflict, outline the steps in conflict resolution, and teach you how to apply these techniques in your particular situation.

Nov. 15, 2001 (Thursday)
MANAGING RISKS IN LIFE AND AT WORK
David Jacob, President, Marsh Philippines, which provides risk management services, will talk about the kinds of risks facing companies and people at work, the values and attitudes towards risks, and the ways companies and individuals can lessen the risks and its consequences and prepare for worst case scenarios.

All sessions will be conducted from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila. Tickets are available at P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (orchestra patron). Early bird discount of 10% shall be given to the first 100 registrants per seminar. Registration fee includes handouts and certificate of completion. Snacks will NOT be served because eating in the auditorium is prohibited.

Register at the following Inquirer Classified Ads branches: Main-Pasong Tamo, Makati City, 897-8808/ 897-2535; G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City 811-4361/ 811-4370/ 811-4012; St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd, Quezon City 421-1420/421-0343; SM Megamall,Mandaluyong City 635-0219/ 637-2008; G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila 527-3342/ 528-0183/ 527-6357 *or at the* OPTIMUS MANAGERS AND ADVISORS,INC. *office* at the 2nd floor, Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. cor. Mo. Ignacia Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City 414-0186, 414-0587.

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Radio stations need to adapt to changing times, experts say

A CONSULTATION on the future of short-wave broadcasting technology concluded that Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) and similar radio stations need to adapt to changing times.

About 20 participants, including media professionals from Asia and Europe and representatives of Propaganda Fide and the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in Rome, agreed that short-wave radio has remarkable strengths but also weaknesses, which can be offset by incorporating technical developments.

The meeting was convened by RVA's German Advisory Council in Koenigstein, Germany.

Priority should be in deciding which means of transmission is suitable to the characteristics of "respective target groups," explained Daniela Frank of the Germany-based Catholic Media Council.

For RVA, "listener research" is key, she said.

The meeting urged management to look into the viability of new technologies and how they fit into the needs and resources of target areas.

Dieter Weirich, director general of Deutsche Welle, said that no single means is sufficient in today's technological landscape.

Short-wave radio remains operative in Africa and Asia, while satellite dissemination is used in advanced information markets.

Jesuit Fr. Lino Dan, technical director of Radio Vaticana, proposed a system that integrates digital technology with existing short-wave transmitters. The resulting technology, DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) is not perfect yet but feedback is overwhelmingly positive particularly in China, RVA's prime target area.

RVA, which beams in 17 languages across Asia and parts of Europe, thrives on grants from Church funding agencies in Europe, especially Germany.

In early 2001, through the efforts of the Office of Social Communication of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC-OSC), an RVA Foundation was set up to help promote and support programs for overseas Filipinos in East, Southeast and Middle East Asia.

Program advisory boards, under the auspices of the bishops' conference in individual target areas, were also established. Their main task is to facilitate a dialogue with listeners in order to improve programming. But in future, these bodies are hoped to solicit financial support as well.

RVA is a FABC project. Pope John Paul II calls the station the "missionary of Asia" which should be extended every kind of support.

Sick baby still in need

SHAENA San Diego, 1, still needs help to buy medicine for her bronch-pneumonia.

Her parents Erwin and Shiela are both jobless. They live at 205 Rose St., Purok 4, Pineda, Pasig City.

Donors may call Beth Andres at 897-4798.

They've come a long way . . .

(From page A22)

Welfareville gave him the strength to compete in the tough outside world.

Liberty

Before the Welfareville institutions were dispersed, De Leon finished her third year in high school. She and the other orphans were absorbed by the Nayon ng Kabataan.

After release from the orphanage, De Leon was referred to a professor who took care of her and gave her a job at a gasoline station, which allowed her to support herself.

De Leon learned that Liberty Corp., a wheat production company, was hiring people who could also be part of a musical group for company affairs. She was hired.

She worked as a wheat bag maker while playing for the musical group on the side. She later applied for a secretarial position, also at Liberty, and she got it.

After a few years as secretary, she became executive secretary to the vice president, a position she has been holding for 10 years now.

Closed

In the late 1960s, most of the institutions in the Welfareville compound were closed.

Alicia Bala, National Capital Region director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, says DWSD now runs the former Welfareville institutions separately. These include the Reception and Study Center (for neglected children) and the Golden Acres (for the elderly) in Quezon City, the Nayon ng Kabataan in Pasay City, and a boys' training house in Rizal.

NOw there are only two institutions in the Welfareville compound: the Jose Fabella Center (JFC) and the Sanctuary.

The Nayon ng Kabataan in Pasay City will soon be transferred to Welfareville, Bala says. Pilot projects of day-care centers for children and senior citizens are also being conducted in Welfareville.

Bala says President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered that 25 hectares of Welfareville be distributed to the urban poor. Bautista has a daughter and three grandchildren. De Leon has a son.

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Nothing would afford us more pleasure than to bring you the second run of Mini Job Fair this year. The **INQUIRER'S JOB MARKET** carries on to meet the needs of our advertisers in picking the right professionals among the bunch.

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4	MANANABAS
5	13 DAYS
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
8	SISID

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9395452

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	MANANABAS
6	THE BODY
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	THE HOLE
10	13 DAYS
11	PRINCESS DIARIES
12	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522-7181416

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2	13 DAYS
3	THE BODY
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	NAKED NIGHTS
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8	FAST & FURIOUS
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10	THE HOLE

SM SOUTHMALL 8066808

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	13 DAYS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	MANANABAS
5	THE HOLE
6	EXTREME FORCE
7	CLOSED
8	THE BODY
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10	NAKED NIGHTS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9359749

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	THE HOLE
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	13 DAYS
6	MANANABAS
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	THE BODY
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
11	SISID
12	NAKED NIGHTS

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820905

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

SM CEBU 2313876

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2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	YOUNG WARLOCK
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	MANANABAS
7	FAST & FURIOUS

SM CITY MANILA 5228240

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2	13 DAYS
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	THE HOLE
6	FAST & FURIOUS
7	EXTREME FORCE
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	MANANABAS
10	NAKED NIGHTS
11	AMERICAN PIE 2
12	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	CLOSED
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	MANANABAS
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	CLOSED
8	SISID

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2	13 DAYS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
5	THE BODY
6	EXTREME FORCE
7	NAKED NIGHTS
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	MANANABAS
10	FAST & FURIOUS
11	THE HOLE
12	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	13 DAYS
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	MANANABAS

SM SUCAT 8294975

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	THE BODY

SM TUTUBAN 2514312

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2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	THE BODY
4	MANANABAS

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4	THE BODY

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Cinemas

1	THE BODY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5	TOWN & COUNTRY (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6	AMERICAN PIE 2 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICAN PIE 2 in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7	THIRTEEN DAYS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ABOUT ADAM (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film		

GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE BODY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THIRTEEN DAYS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICAN PIE 2 in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MOCCA JAVA LIVE! OCT. 18 & 25 9PM/ MITCH VALDEZ GOLDEN GIRL...DIVAH? OCT. 20 & 27 9PM — Onstage

GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	AMERICAN PIE 2 in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE BODY in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	OSMOSIS JONES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THIRTEEN DAYS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4 GOLD (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	13 DAYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE BODY
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MANANABAS
10	NAKED NIGHTS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	LAST ERUPTION
3 (DTS)	MANANABAS
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	MANANABAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	THE BODY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	NAKED NIGHTS

METROPOLIS star (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	NAKED NIGHTS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	MANANABAS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	SISID
6	THE BODY
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13 — LUCASFILM THX

1	AMERICAN PIE 2

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	MARITAL RAPE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	NEW FIST OF FURY
A	NAKED NIGHTS

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
2	
3	
4	
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	NAKED NIGHTS
7 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
8 (SDDS)	EXTREME FORCE
9 (DOLBY)	THE BODY

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	MANANABAS

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	MANANABAS
4 (SDDS)	SISID
5	NAKED NIGHT
6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
7 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	
9	

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	THE BODY
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 (SDDS)	

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MANANABAS

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MANANABAS

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet

	SIN OF THE NIGHT
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MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	MANANABAS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733 4238

1 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
2	THE BODY
3	NAKED NIGHTS
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	NAKED NIGHTS
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	
5	
6	

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Berma tel 879.2029

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MANANABAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	NAKED NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MANANABAS
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 (DTS)	THE NEW FIST OF FURY

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
4	NAKED NIGHTS
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MANANABAS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	MANANABAS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	ST. FRANCISVILLE
2	SISID
3	OSMOSIS JONES

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	NAKED NIGHTS

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SISID
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	SISID

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR)	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	RESERVE
4 (DTS SR)	THE HOLE

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7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MANANABAS
10	NAKED NIGHTS

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	EXTREME FORCE
3	13 DAYS
4	MANANABAS
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	THE BODY

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS
4	MANANABAS
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	RESERVE
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	THE BODY

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	13 DAYS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	THE BODY
5	MANANABAS
6	NAKED NIGHTS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	LAST ERUPTIONS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	VENUS / FEMALE ANIMAL
ODEON	MANANABAS
ODEON-2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ROBEN	NAKED NIGHTS
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SCREAM . . . FRIDAY THE 13TH / DR. DOOLITTLE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	NAKED NIGHTS
REMAR	MANANABAS
REMAR-2	NAKED NIGHTS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	AMERICAN PIE 2

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SISID
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	THE HOLE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MANANABAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-2	THE BODY
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE 2

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	VENUS
CINEMA-2	VENGADOR
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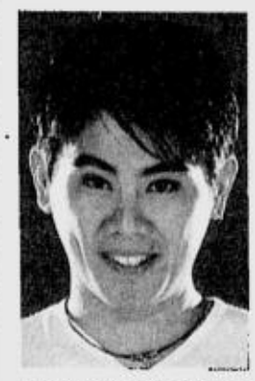


BONDOC. Cited for his song and original composition

Awit Awards nominee

ONE of Star Records' newest and most promising recording artists, Jimmy Bondoc, recently received a nomination for best performance by a new male recording artist in the forthcoming Awit Awards.

Jimmy was cited for his song and original composition, "Tuwing Umuulan," culled from his debut album under Star Records.

"I'm happy with the recognition," says Jimmy. "Being nominated is already a big thing for me."

Jimmy, however, is not about to rest on his laurels.

"There's so much to be done, so many more songs to write and sing, so many more slices of life to capture in poetry and song," explains the newcomer.

These days, Jimmy is busy completing the songs for his second album.

His single, "Tuwing Umuulan," is also included in the soundtrack of the forthcoming film, "Trip."

Another single is also in the works and will be released before the end of the year.

"I'm very proud of my debut album because I wrote 10 of the 12 songs in it," Jimmy says. "I'm glad I am already seeing the results of my hard work."

In the concert scene, Jimmy is busy with several gigs with his band Essence. Catch them at the Arts Venue along Taft Avenue every Fridays of October. Showtime is 10:30 p.m.

Side A performs at Conway's

SIDE A Band has been reaping gold and platinum awards for their albums the past 15 years. They have overwhelmed listeners with their heartwarming, romantic music and have sent their fans leaping to their feet with their upbeat and hip-swaying tunes.

Such is the charisma of Side A as they continue to grow and produce good music for their audience who have followed their career all these years.

Catch Side A as the pop quintet mounts a special repeat performance at Conway's Bar of Makati Shangri-La on Oct. 23.

Don't miss their especially arranged medleys, dance tunes and all-time hits.

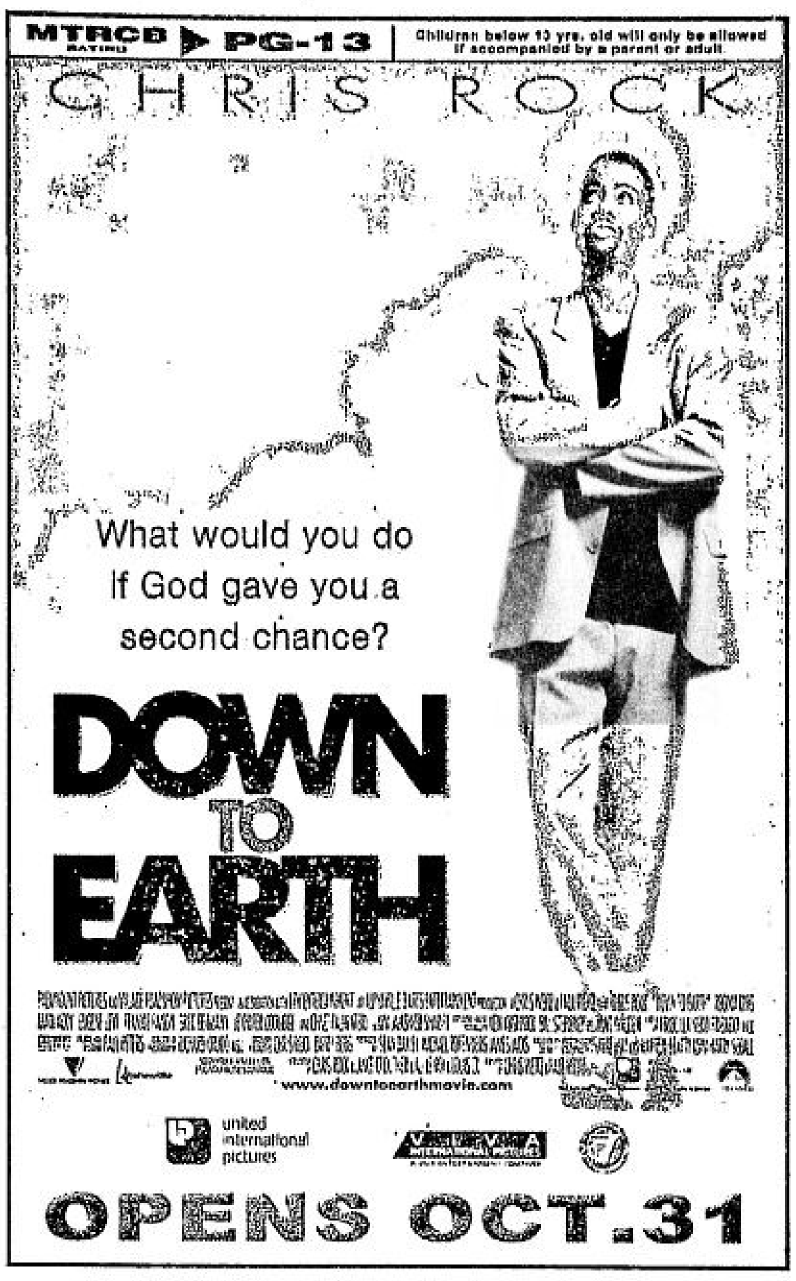
Conway's Bar also features music of Soul'd Out on Mondays, ROB on Wednesdays and Spirit of '67 on Thursdays.

On Fridays, double up the fun with Spirit A.D. and Big performing back-to-back.

Saturdays are all-out dance nights with Human Race.

Catch R&B band Ntwine in a special performance Oct. 30.

For inquiries and reservations, call 813-8888.



Love, lust and romantic larceny

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"TOWN and Country" is a film about love and romantic larceny among the wealthy, middle-aged set. It focuses on two couples who have been best friends for years.

Warren Beatty and **Diane Keaton** are the loving parents of two nice but sexually adventurous children who don't feel that they have to ask their folks' permission for their current bedmates to sleep over at their Fifth Avenue apartment.

Goldie Hawn and **Garry Shandling** don't have any kids, so they're spared all that sexual fuss and bother, but they have problems of their own.

For one thing, he plays around. With men. Oh.

When Goldie finds out, she flies off the handle and scream for divorce. She also seeks comfort and support from Warren and Diane, who don't seem to have any problems in the quickle-sneakie-nookie department.

Boy, is she wrong. At film's start, we see Beatty in bed with a cellist. Later in the film, Goldie herself gets him under the sheets, despite their best intentions. And later, other women get linked to him, including a really spaced-out dame with **Charlton Heston** for a father (!).

Thus does the movie show that even "perfect" marriages can be shot through with duplicity and lust. Even life-long friendships get their share of brickbats, as best buddies Goldie and Warren "surprise" themselves by belatedly lusting for one another.

The movie's acerbic wit hits a satisfying number of targets, but its focus gets thrown out of whack when the film's location moves to a ski resort town where Beatty's loopy admirer and other women try to get in on the sexy action.

The movie was much better off when it remained in the city. The out-of-town setting does give us the shocking pleasure of listening to Heston's batty, old wife cussing up a storm, but that's about it.

The New York City scenes, on the other hand, reward us with a number of humorous barbs and outrageously funny ensemble work from the movie's cast of sophisticated zanies.

The best example of this is the sequence in which Beatty goes to the kitchen for a midnight snack. On the way, he hears his son and his latest squeeze making love, his daughter and her Middle-Eastern lover in the throes of passion, and even the Mexican maid getting it on with her boyfriend, con mucho gusto!

As if the aural frenzy weren't funny enough, Beatty is soon joined at the kitchen table by the men in those rooms he's passed, all of them feeling hugely ravenous after their loud and frenetic bouts in the hay.

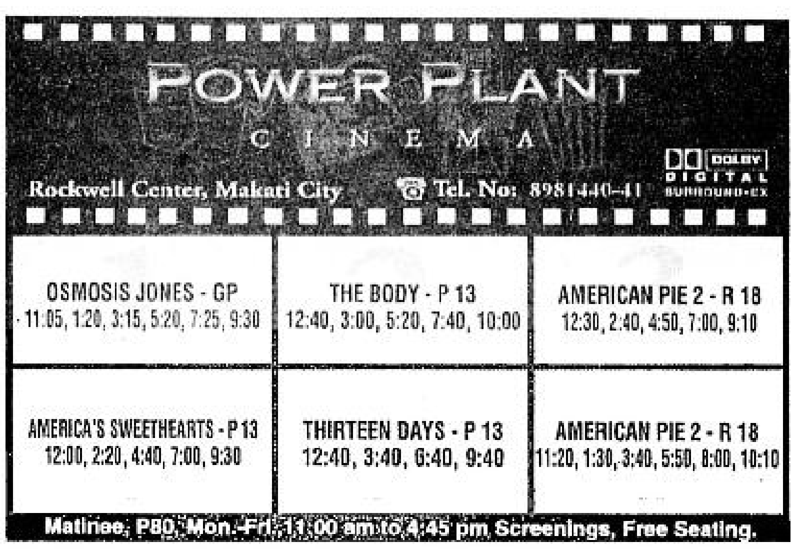
Would that "Town and Country" had concentrated on coming up with more of the same instead of going on that out-of-town lark, and other unproductive detours.

TV treats

OCT. 24 on the National Geographic Channel at 10 p.m., "Krygzstan: Kok Boru Forever" features the fast-paced ball game of Kok Boru, also known as headless goat polo!

At 9 p.m., NGC's "Out There" series focuses on firefighters who risk their lives putting out forest and brush fires.

At 11:30 p.m., NGC's "Pub Guide to the Universe" discusses the future of intergalactic travel in "Holiday in Space."



Cases vs 'Sutla' dismissed

(From page A27)

businessman, he cannot be held criminally liable for his investment in a movie he produced and believed to be of good and artistic value."

Fear of prosecution

The court did not see Tieng on the same level of responsibility as the MTRCB members who approved the showing of his film, maintaining the "observation was not even supported by adequate or corroborated by any relevant evidence, documentary or testimonial."

The decision noted that making film producers equally responsible for the acts of public officials "would restrain the growth of the movie industry" and keep producers and investors from financing entertainment "for fear of criminal prosecution."

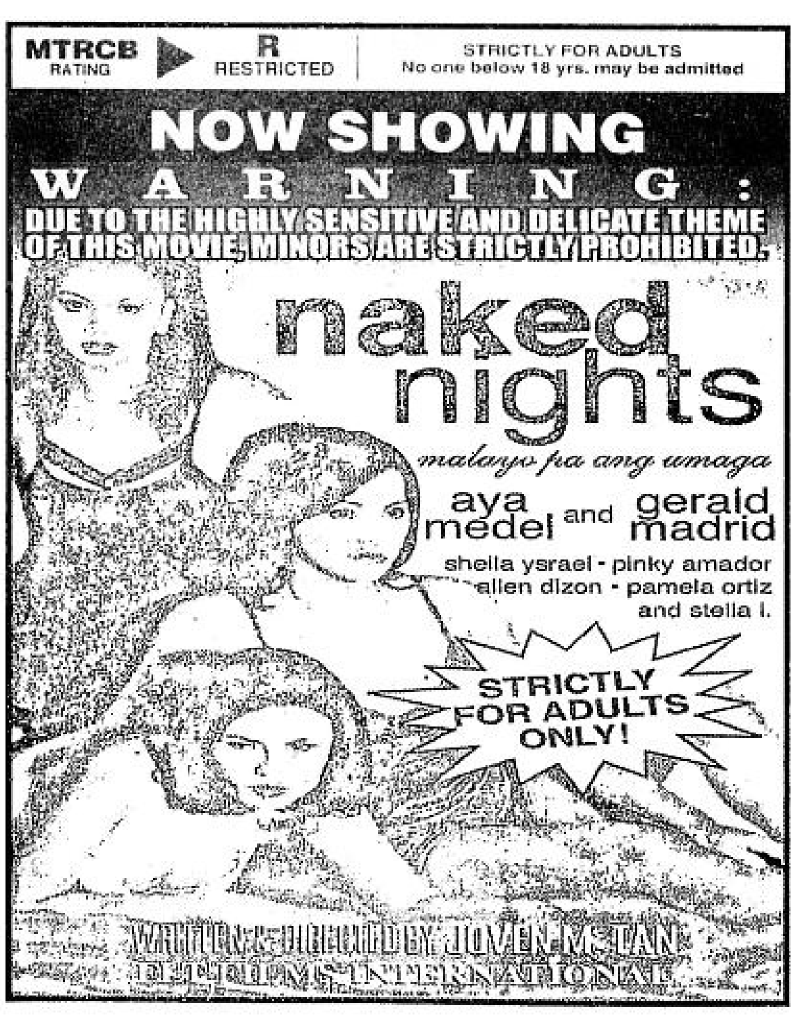
Undermining the charges of conspiracy and preferential treatment, the court stressed the MTRCB rules and regulations provided for film reviewers to be informed of the films due for review and classification "only on the specific day that the same is set for review by them. The latter are also not apprised beforehand of what pictures or programs are scheduled for viewing and/or review."

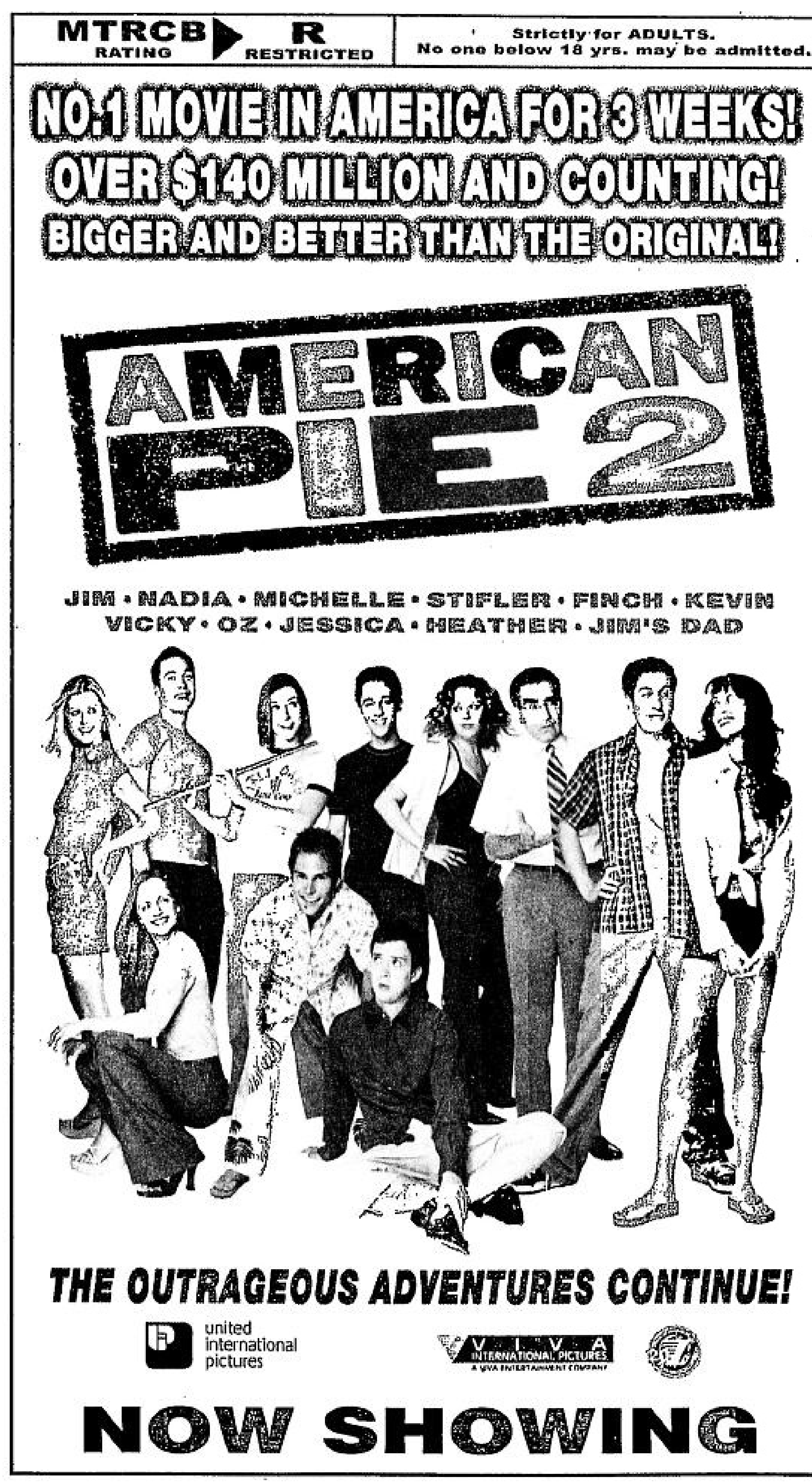
"Furthermore, any reviewer and member of the Board connected with the film to be reviewed as an actor, producer, director, or has any involvement in the film, are not assigned to review the film or act in any capacity on the film."

The implementing rules and regulations, created by the Siguion-Reyna board in its first month in office in July 1998 to guard against conspiracy, conflict of interest, and corruption, have been replaced by the present board.

The Sandiganbayan found it sufficient that the respondents had their R-18 classification accompanied by a written warning that the film contained "adult material, vulgar or profane language, considerable sex and violence, sexually oriented nudity, tolerant depiction of aberrational behavior, drug abuse or a combination of all of the above."

The court also saw the warning as "a redeeming act" on the part of the respondents.





Regine sings movie themes

BEHIND most good films are equally good songs. Thus, a theme song becomes as memorable and classic as the movie itself.

For four consecutive weekends in November and December, reminisce with Regine Velasquez as she brings back unforgettable movie themes that have become the soundtrack of our lives.

"Regine at the Movies" features melodies from classic films of yesteryears and blockbuster hits of today, in a 12-night concert series that is set to capture the sentiments of both film and music enthusiasts.

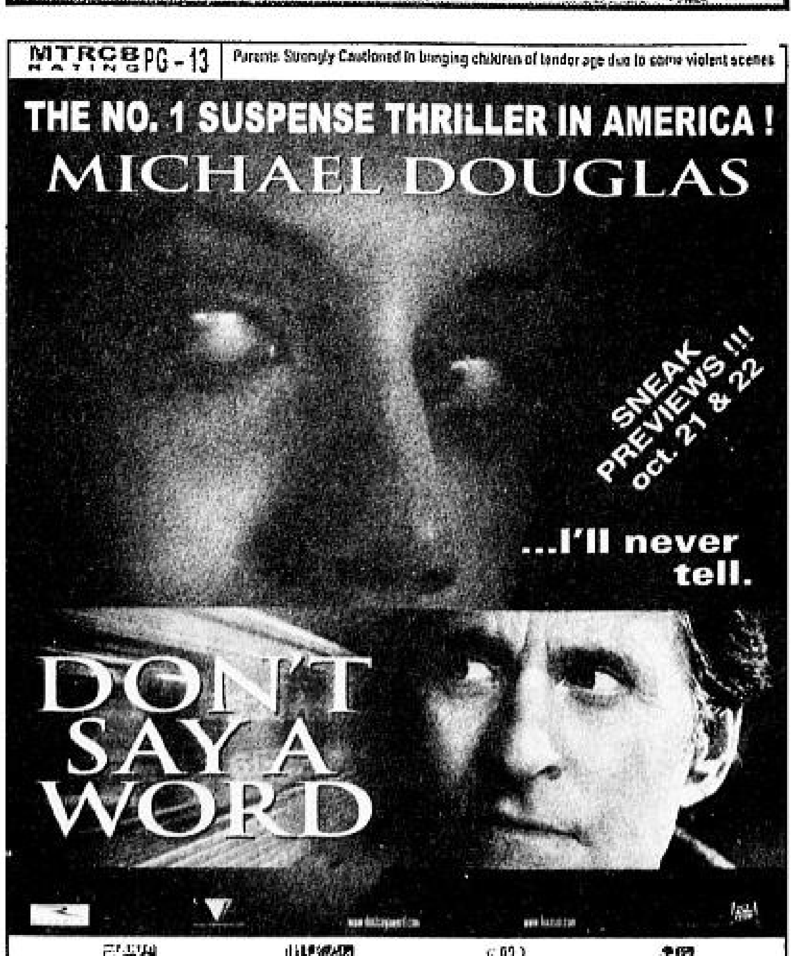
What further sets this series apart from Regine's previous concerts is its staging in two intimate venues, Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan and Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati.

Show dates are Nov. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at Music Museum and Nov. 23, 24, 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 15 and 16 at Onstage Greenbelt.

"Regine at the Movies" is a production of Maxi-Media International and presented by Sunsilk Crystal Nutrient Shampoo with Farlin Baby Products and Beam Toothpaste.

Tickets at P1,200, P900 and P600 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610), major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Place and Robinson's Galleria, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, Music Museum (721-0635 or 721-6726), Onstage Ticketron and Maxi-Media office (813-8999 or 893-7737).

The concert-series is also brought in part by WBN Jeans, Alberto Shoes, Wendy's Hamburger, Biogesic, No-Drowse Decolgen and Solmux.



PAST AND PRESENT. Actress Nancy Kwan, who starred in the film version of "Flower Drum Song," poses with Lea Salonga.

FIRST FILIPINO LEADING MAN. Jose Llana with Lea Salonga co-star for the first time onstage.

Cruise to pay $27,900 in defamation case

LOS ANGELES — Movie star Tom Cruise was ordered Thursday to pay $27,900 in legal fees for Kristina Ann Kirstin, the former wife of a pornography actor he sued for defamation, court sources said.

A judge for the Los Angeles Superior Court overruled Cruise's inclusion of Kirstin in the $100-million suit Cruise filed against porn actor Chad Slater.

Slater was quoted in a tabloid alleging he had a sexual relationship with the multimillionaire actor.

Lea takes her place in musical theater history

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

A LOT of eventful things have happened to **Lea Salonga** since she left Manila last December at the end of her three-month performance in the Philippine production of "Miss Saigon."

Lea went back to school at the Fordham University in New York, joined the cast of the TV soap "As the World Turns," signed a multimillion-peso contract to be the image model of the young women's label Bayo, and is now playing the role of Mei-Li in the new stage version of "Flower Drum Song."

From West End to Broadway, Lea has earned raves and honors as a stage actress. Now, she conquers the US West Coast in her new musical, which premiered at the Mark Taper Forum in downtown Los Angeles Sunday night, Oct. 14.

After the musical's gala night, Lea landed on the front page of the L.A. Times and was also on the cover of the L.A. Times magazine, in character as Mei-Li.

Award-winning Asian-American playwright **David Henry Hwang,** who wrote "M. Butterfly," started working on the new book of "Flower Drum Song" as early as 1996. He says he was inspired to breathe new life into the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic after he saw the revival of "The King and I" on Broadway that same year.

Hwang presented his concept to **Ted Chapin**, president of Rodgers and Hammerstein, **Richard Rodger's** daughter **Mary**, and the late **James Hammerstein**, son of Oscar and stage manager of the original "Flower Drum Song." He proposed to keep the score and the lyrics but he would write a new book that would feel more authentically Chinese-American for a contemporary audience.

Hwang insists this "Flower Drum Song" is not just a revival of the original, but a "revisical" or a radical revision. He did not just rewrite the script; he also rewrote musical theater history.

He calls the new version a universal story of assimilation, a sincere attempt by major contemporary theater artists to collaborate with the giants of the past.

American critics hailed the new "Flower Drum Song" as an "unusually ambitious aesthetic experiment, an attempt not merely to revise the book of an established musical, but to use its score, songs, music and lyrics to tell a new and different story, while remaining true to the aesthetic and moral values of the original."

"Flower Drum Song" is based on the 1957 best-selling novel by **C.Y. Lee**, the story of Mei-Li, an innocent young refugee from Communist China and her new life and love in Chinatown. It was transformed into a Broadway musical and then into a Hollywood movie in 1961. Both were considered groundbreaking in their use of Asian actors to play Asian characters.

In the new version of "Flower Drum Song," major characters have been eliminated or blended and virtually none of the original libretto remains. Songs including "A Hundred Million Miracles" and "I Enjoy Being a Girl" have been rearranged and sung by different characters than in the original.

Several songs have also been turned into grand production numbers, performed onstage at Club Chop Suey, the Western-style night spot in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Only the name hasn't changed and, Hwang hopes, the spirit. He hopes it will be the Chinese-American answer to "Fiddler on the Roof."

Reunion

AFTER the opening night on Saturday, Oct. 13, a dinner-reception was held at Otto's Grill beside the theater. Lea met actress **Nancy Kwan**, who played **Linda Low** in the movie version of "Flower Drum Song."

The dinner served as a reunion of "Flower Drum Song" alumni from the original Broadway version, the tour, the ballet and the movie.

The silver-haired **Alvin Ing** is the only current cast member who played in the original touring company of "Flower Drum Song." Then only a member of the ensemble, Ing now injects humor into the new production with his performance as the Big Ear Chin.

Jodi Long, whose parents were headliners in the Chop Suey circuit, was only 8 when she joined the touring production's cast. Now 43, she plays the fiery **Madame Liang**.

Busy Gerard

LEA's mom **Ligaya Salonga** and younger brother **Gerard** did not make it to L.A. for the gala night of "Flower Drum Song."

Her doctors advised Mrs. Salonga against going on a long-haul flight for health reasons. But she hopes to be able to watch Lea before the musical ends its run on Dec. 2.

Gerard is pretty tied up with several commitments. The night before we left for L.A., we saw him at the Captain's Bar stage of Mandarin Oriental during **Basil Valdez**'s one-night concert, produced by 105.1 Crossover (Oct. 10).

Gerard is the resident musical director of the monthly "Crossover Presents" series, but on that particular night, he played second keyboard to his mentor, **Ryan Cayabyab**, who led the band for Basil's concert.

"Only for Mr. C," Gerard told us.

On Oct. 30 and 31, Gerard will conduct the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines for the two-night concert of **Lani Misalucha**.

In support of Lea

IN EVERY major event in the career of Lea, BMG Records Pilipinas has always supported its prized contract artist.

When she reprised her role as Kim in the Broadway production of "Miss Saigon" in January 1999, BMG Records executives flew to New York and watched Lea conquer the same stage, which earned for her the Tony best actress award.

That same year, when Lea did "They're Playing Our Song" for the Singapore Repertory Theater, BMG Records bosses were also in Singapore, for the opening night of the musical at the Jubilee Theater of the posh Raffles Hotel complex.

I also remember seeing BMG Records executives during the 1998 Manila premiere at Meralco Theater of Disney's animated hit, "Mulan." Lea sang "Reflections" in the movie soundtrack.

Again, BMG Records did not disappoint Lea during the opening night of "Flower Drum Song" in L.A. The company was represented by its executive, **Narciso Chan**, who presented Lea with a large bouquet of flowers before her performance.

BMG Records has managed to maintain a long-standing professional and personal relationship with Lea, since Ryan Cayabyab asked the singer-actress to record two cuts for his silver anniversary album, released by BMG in 1996.

That year, BMG even brought Mr. C to New York so Lea, then based in Boston, could record "Paraiso" and "Limang Dipang Tao," both composed by Mr. C. That started the friendship between Lea and the BMG people, who eventually signed her up.

To date, Lea has released multi-platinum BMG albums including "By Heart," "So in Love," a Christmas album and "Songs from the Screen," a live recording of her concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO).

When she returns to Manila in December, Lea will start work on a new BMG album to be released next year.

Broadway hit in California

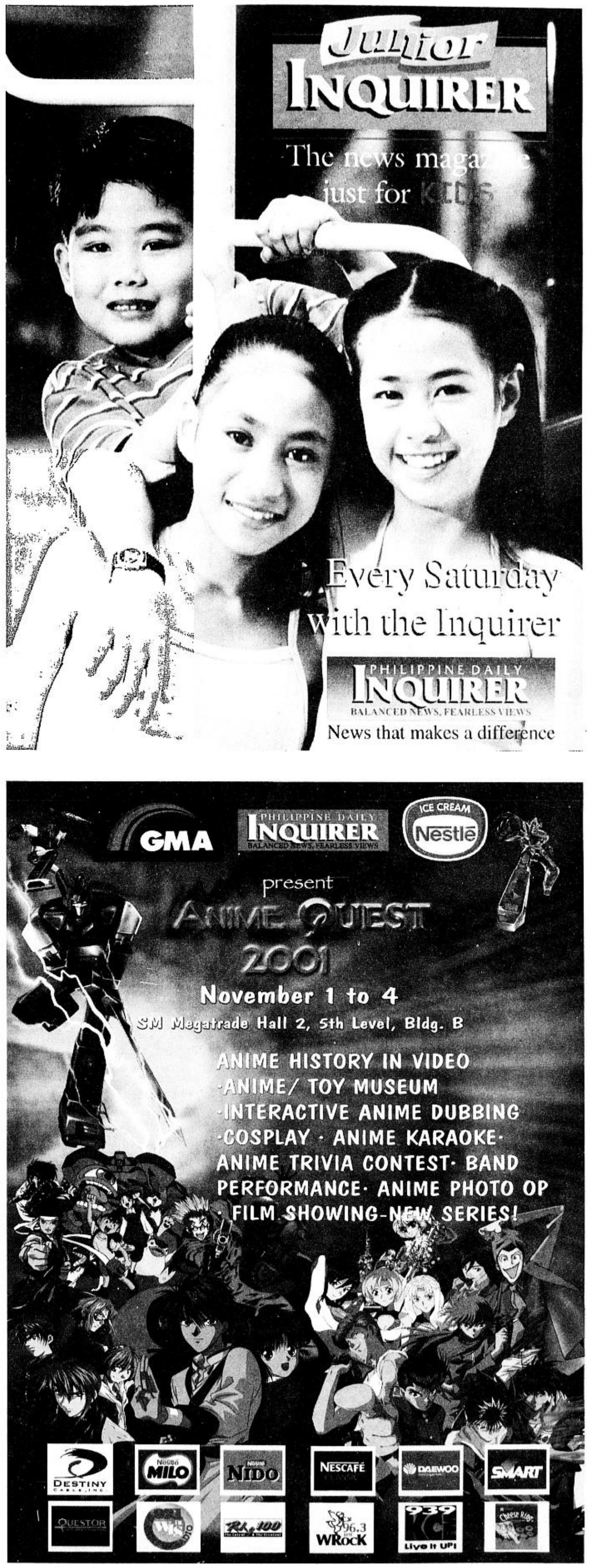
THE MARK Taper Forum where Lea Salonga currently topbills the two-month run of "Flower Drum Song" is right in front of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, where the Academy Awards are often held.

The Pavilion is also home to the Los Angeles Opera, with tenor **Placido Domingo** as director.

Operas at the Pavilion this season include "La Traviata," "The Merry Widow" and "Moses und Aron."

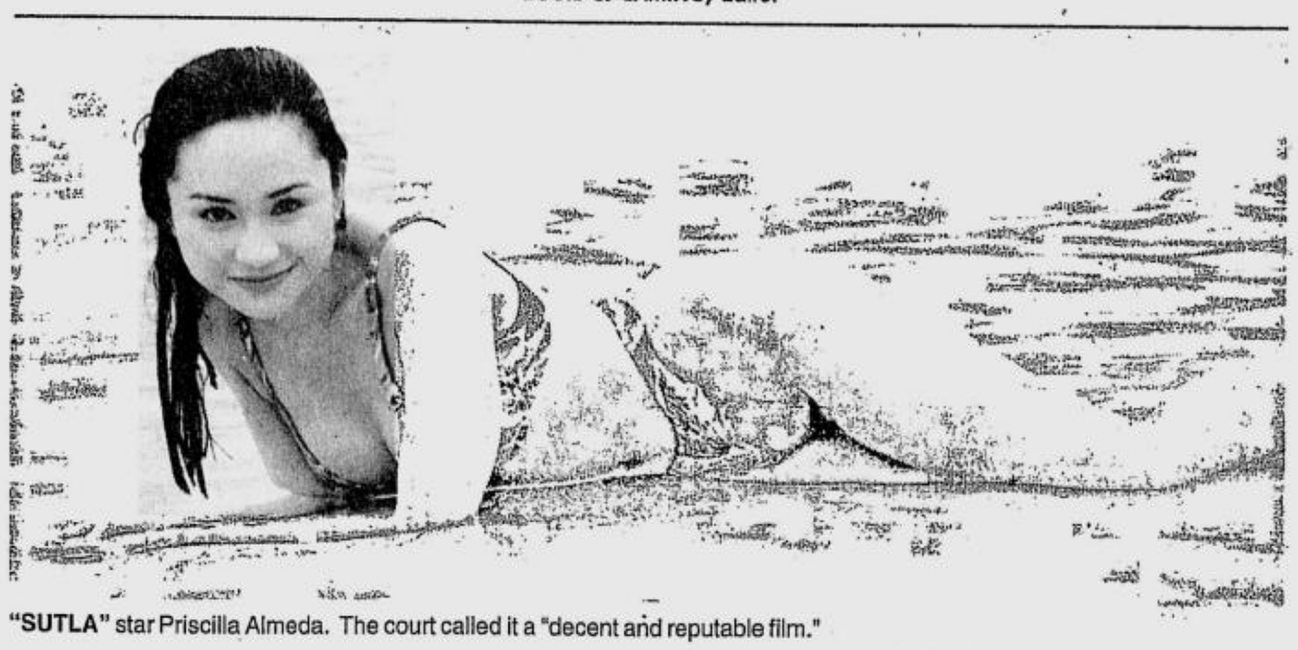
Meanwhile, debuting at the Ahmanson Theater next month is the new version of Verdi's "Aida," which is a creative collaboration by singer-songwriter **Elton John** and noted composer **Tim Rice**.

"Aida" is Disney's newest Broadway hit following "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King." So the premiere of "Aida" in California is also a much-awaited event.



ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



"SUTLA" star Priscilla Almeda. The court called it a "decent and reputable film."

Cases vs 'Sutla' dismissed

BY CARLOS SIGUION-REYNA

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has dismissed all cases filed in connection with the movie "Sutla," a controversy that hit the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, then chaired by Armida Siguion-Reyna, in the last quarter of 1999, under the Estrada administration.

The ground-breaking decision, dated Sept. 13, 2001, cleared respondents Robert Arevalo, Raquel Villavicencio, Sofia Macapagal, Behn Cervantes, and film producer Wilson Tieng and lifted all hold-departure orders previously issued against them.

More importantly, the decision recognized that "'Sutla,' taken and viewed in its total context and as a whole, is a decent and reputable film with a serious literary, redeeming and artistic value."

And it shared the observation of the panel of investigators that "the film presented some good Filipino cultural values, like respect for elders, reconciliation and forgiveness, humility and relegating one's interest for the sake of others."

In review, the initial spark was pornography as an issue. The initial cases were filed by Renato and Teresita Luz of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography which counts, among others, former MTRCB chair Henrietta Mendez as member.

Trailblazing ruling

But pornography turned out to be incidental when court prosecutors said in a memorandum, dated Jan. 18, 2001, that "there is no sufficient evidence to establish probable cause against the accused-movants. This being so, the charges against them cannot withstand the glare of judicial scrutiny."

The memorandum somewhat confirms that charges against "Sutla" were merely a bonfire of the vanities stoked for various vested interests in political, religious and media power circles.

The Sandiganbayan ruling on the "Sutla" case blazes a trail for enlightened film classification and vindicates those in the creative community who have remained true to the fight for the constitutional right to free expression.

It is also instructive to current and future MTRCB members, particularly during this season of maneuvering for board appointments and re-appointments.

Criminal Case Nos. 26291-26292 alleged that, on Sept. 7, 1999, MTRCB officer in charge Arevalo, subcommittee members Villavicencio, Macapagal and Cervantes, "with evident bad faith and manifest partiality," conspired to "willfully, unlawfully and criminally give unwarranted benefit, advantage and preference to the producer of the film (Tieng), by recommending and approving the showing of the film 'Sutla' to the damage of public interest."

No undue injury

Simply stated, the four MTRCB members and producer Tieng were accused of playing chummy with each other to facilitate approval of what the complainants characterized as an "indecent and immoral movie."

The respondents submitted thorough defense arguments and moved for the dismissal of the cases for absence of probable cause, absence of basis, failure to constitute an offense, and in the case of Macapagal, lack of jurisdiction.

The Sandiganbayan (Fourth Division) found the respondents' motion to dismiss as "impressed with merit."

On the charge of damage to public interest, the court did not find that "undue injury to any party" was established and proven.

It further cited the Supreme Court in the case of Llorente vs. Sandiganbayan: "Undue injury is consistently interpreted as actual damage . . . damage must not only be capable of proof, but must be actually proven with a reasonable degree of certainty . . . cannot be based on flimsy and non-substantial evidence or upon speculation, conjecture or guesswork . . . cannot include speculative danger which are too remote to be included in an accurate estimate of the loss or injury."

As to conspiracy with, and preferential treatment for, the producer: "No evidence was advanced to show proof that the private respondent Wilson Tieng took part in the issuance of the aforesaid permit except for having been responsible for the production of the same. Thus, as a

CASES/ A25

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On SKYCable we have recently added Channel News Asia (CNA) and AXN Action TV, as well as improved programming of our channels designed for Filipino audiences like Cinema One, ANC and Lifestyle Network. On Home Cable, we have recently added Cinema One, ANC, Knowledge Channel and Lifestyle Network.

We are operating under very difficult business conditions. SKYCable and Home Cable joined operations precisely to cut costs and make both operations viable. We know that only by being viable can we be of most value to our subscribers.

We hope for our subscribers' understanding at this time.

▶ **NOTE:**

*Star was actually trying to bully us into buying a bundle of six channels on a "take all or nothing" basis, including three channels for which we already have equivalent service. We initially wanted only three channels: Star Sports, Star Movies and ESPN. During negotiations, we tried to accommodate as many as five channels and increased our offer price accordingly.

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SundayBIZ
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

VALDEPEÑAS today, as COO of Unionbank

He was king for two months, turned pauper in a day

FIRST JOB

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

IT WAS 1967 and the young Victor B. Valdepeñas, fresh out of the University of the Philippines with an Economics degree under his belt, felt on top of the world.

After all, the University of Sto. Tomas had immediately hired him as a professional lecturer and paid the 19-year-old P335 a month. It was a windfall considering that ordinary teachers at that time received only about P200 and the minimum wage was pegged at about P120.

His salary was more than enough to pay for a full tank of gasoline worth P10 (a liter cost only 28 centavos), a shirt at R.M. Manlapat that cost only P10. The brand new Volkswagen that his father bought him was only P9,945.

The son of a government employee and a homemaker was so happy with his fortunes, in fact, that he carried his checks for two months' work in his wallet. As he says, it made him feel good.

The feeling, however, did not last long.

Misfortune

"I wanted to save money so I rode a bus to UP. I was standing because the bus was full. Sud-

HE/ B3

Naturally bearded Santas win biggest pay

NEW YORK—For the recently unemployed wanting to make money playing Santa over the Christmas shopping season, it might be too late: Aspiring Clauses won't cut it unless they already have a natural, full white beard.

But for those who've given up shaving and dieting since the downturn began, the payoff could be big. Even in the depressed economy, a Santa can earn $20,000—and a star performer can get $30,000 for the short holiday season, Santa experts say.

But not if they have to glue on facial hair before they go to work.

"Our goal is to enhance the child and the parents' experience," said Nick LeMasters, General Manager of Denver's 1.1 million-square-foot Cherry Creek Shopping Center, a Taubman Centers Inc. mall.

To that end LeMasters has one major requirement when seeking a Santa: "that they be naturally bearded."

Rick Eggeseiecker, sales director of SantaPlus, a St. Louis, Missouri, digital photography company that places photogenic Santas in more than 300 malls across the United States, agrees that naturally bearded Santas do better.

"In the past five years we have seen a move toward real beards," Eggeseiecker said. At minimum, he added, "Santas with their own beards earn more money."

But if Santas need to be full-bearded, they don't necessarily need to be wide-bodied.

"It helps if Santa's appearance reflects the commonly held perception we have of Santa Claus," LeMasters says. But he added that many people can adapt with the proper attire, "which may include a pillow."

Of course industry insiders are keen to stress the importance of other Santa-like attributes—patience with children, be jolly, and have a passion for wearing red and white. But when it comes to children (or adults) tugging beards, natural beats nylon.

Because of this, many long-term professional Santas spend their off-season carefully nurturing their white locks, and late-comers are still playing catch-up. It may also help to have had a career in uniform, and extra time to hang by the refrigerator.

"Many of our Santas are retired fire department and police department officers," SantaPlus' Eggeseiecker says.

This Christmas, however, Judy Noerr, of Denver, Colorado-based booking agency Noerr Programs, believes that Santa's most important quality will be "their heart."

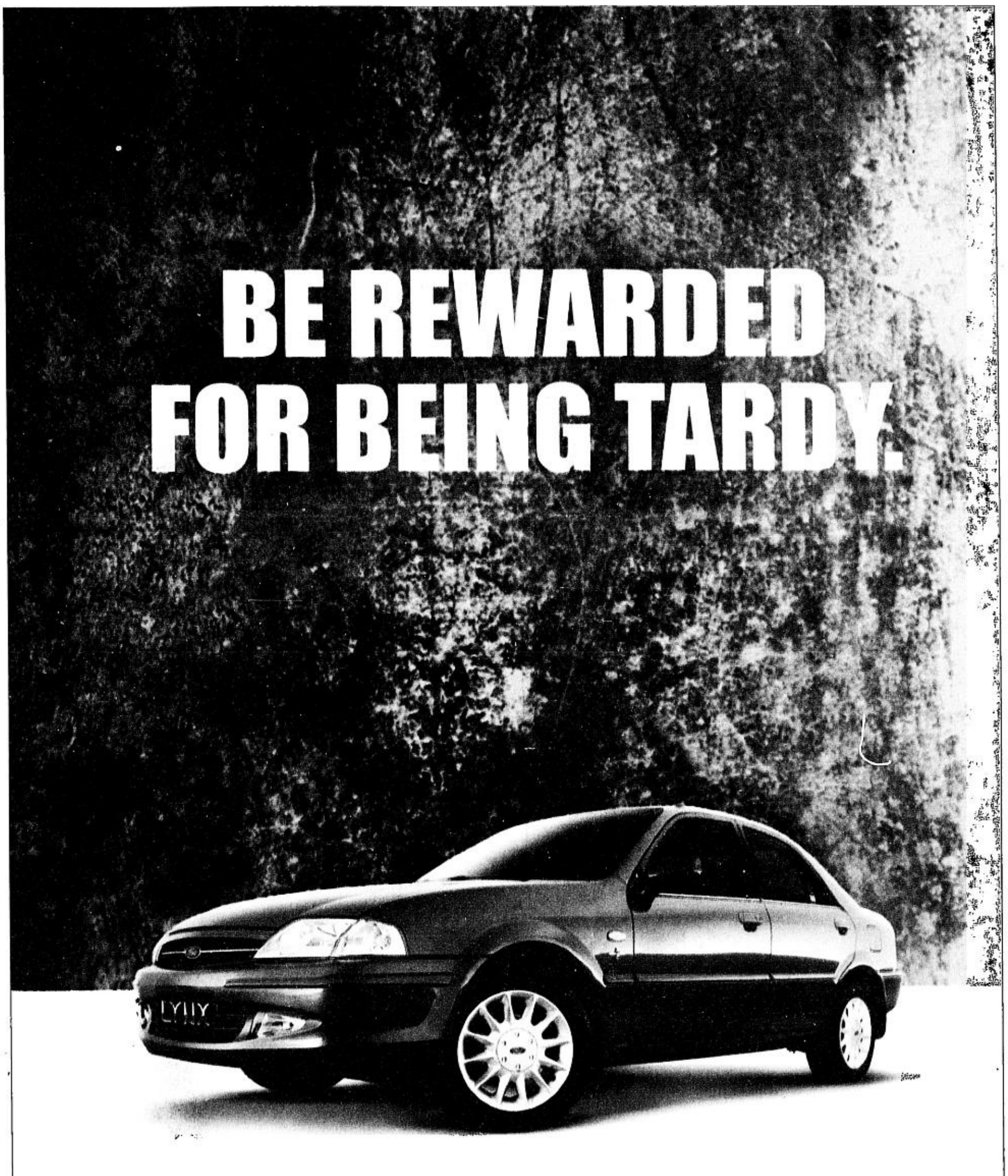
In the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks, Noerr says this is the most important Christmas of all, when people will need extra hope and a smile.

"One of our Santas who was going to work in Florida now wants to go to New York," said Noerr, whose company places Santas anywhere from Massachusetts to California.

Stan Weist, owner of an eponymous New York entertainment company whose Christmas offerings include Lucky the Jumping Dog, agrees.

Weist, who maintains three Santas on his books, acknowledges the grandfatherly aura that his one naturally bearded Santa brings to Christmas parties at country clubs and offices, but says this year "natural or unnatural beards won't matter, we just need overly affectionate, overly sensitive Santas."

Still, there are limits. "We did have one Santa who was great—but then the client found out she was a woman, and wouldn't have her back," Weist said.



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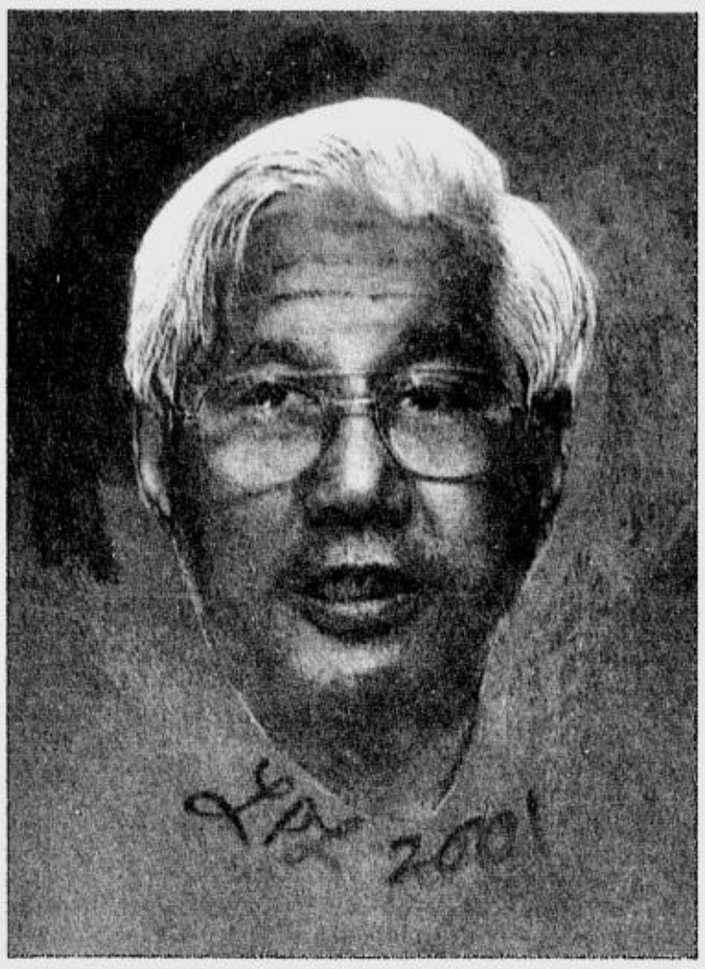
IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE



AFTER years of waiting and billions of pesos in investment, the Philippines has finally seen the birth of the natural gas industry. The Camago-Malampaya operated by the Shell Exploration B.V. recently went into commercial production. As Shell chief executive, Oscar Reyes, can now retire in style.

PRINT Media Group, the single, largest merger of print business/print media organizations (Primo-Prado-Phil. Daily Inquirer) recently elected its officers for 2001-2003. Above photo shows seated, from left: Nona Nañagas, Josie Tan-Magtoto, Pat Pineda, Lucien Dy Tioco, Remy Bicomong, Pepito Olarte. Standing from left are: Elena, Jenny Sebastian, Oscar Valenzuela, Medardo "Boy" Moya, Elaine Mapa, Bess Zamora, Alan Tumlos and Shiela Ansay.

Words capture the pulse and impulse of the times

"20th Century Words"
By John Ayto
Oxford University Press, 1999

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

THE SUBTITLE of this Oxford book says it all: "The story of the new words in English over the last hundred years." And the book delivers what it promises. This is not only an enumeration of words that have risen from the horizon at the dawning and conclusion of the 20th century.

EXECUTIVE READ

It is as much an epic of the world—from the viewpoint of the English-speaking world—giving us glimpses of cataclysmic, earthshaking and trendsetting events. In this book, every word coined or that has gained popularity, has its own story to tell.

It is not only a case of lexicographers catching up with reality, the book says, but it is a case of "genuine change in public usage." Read an interesting account on the initial revulsion over a four-letter word, its usage by famous authors—and then its increasing recognition—if not respectability (?)—proven by its inclusion in dictionaries.

In the '60s, a word is called "Standard English" if it was written. Those that remained spoken—at home or in the streets—if they were touched by neither linotype nor offset, were not "standard."

"Words are a mirror of their times," the book declares, which adds that the editors recognize that a word exists once it gets printed or published. The proliferation of English words is a concern of 500 million people around the world—400 million of whom are native English-speaking individuals, while 100 million use English as their second language (that includes us, Filipinos).

The book also gives the reader interesting accounts on words that were taboo or euphemisms. "Fat," for example, was no social stigma in the 19th century; it was, on the contrary, the standard for pulchritude then. Then "fat" became a "monstrous insult" at the close of the 20th century. One euphemism is suggested for "fat:" "circumferentially challenged"!

This Oxford collection, like all other Oxford books, could be the most authoritative source of new words that saw the light in the last century. What adds to its credibility is the structure where every word is shown employed by famous authors—including the day it was born.

For example, "brassiere" came into being in 1909, when it was first used by Vogue magazine. It was abbreviated into "bra" in the 1930s. Then, later in the sixties, we heard the joke that the bra was poised to sue flat-chested Twiggy for "lack of support."

Another interesting feature in this book is the "conversion" of words—meaning, a noun being used as a verb, citing "garage a car" as an illustration. We have our own "Sinclair it" and our local "Kodak-*an ta ka!*"

In 1912, the word "yes-man," the "man who agrees from self-interest or fear with everything put to him," came into being. And, we may add, the yes-man has been with us since then.

Elevated to virtue, saying yes by yes-men employ this excuse: "You can't say no to the President." Then they authorize the transfer of billions of pesos in what was clearly a case of plunder. At least, in recent history, a man surnamed Yasay said no to a former President.

Check out the 1940s, and you will read about words like "pin-up," first used for Dorothy Lamour by Life, describing her as the "No. 1 pin-up girl of the US Army." Many more pin-ups later, there was Marilyn Monroe and, locally, there is Joyce Jimenez.

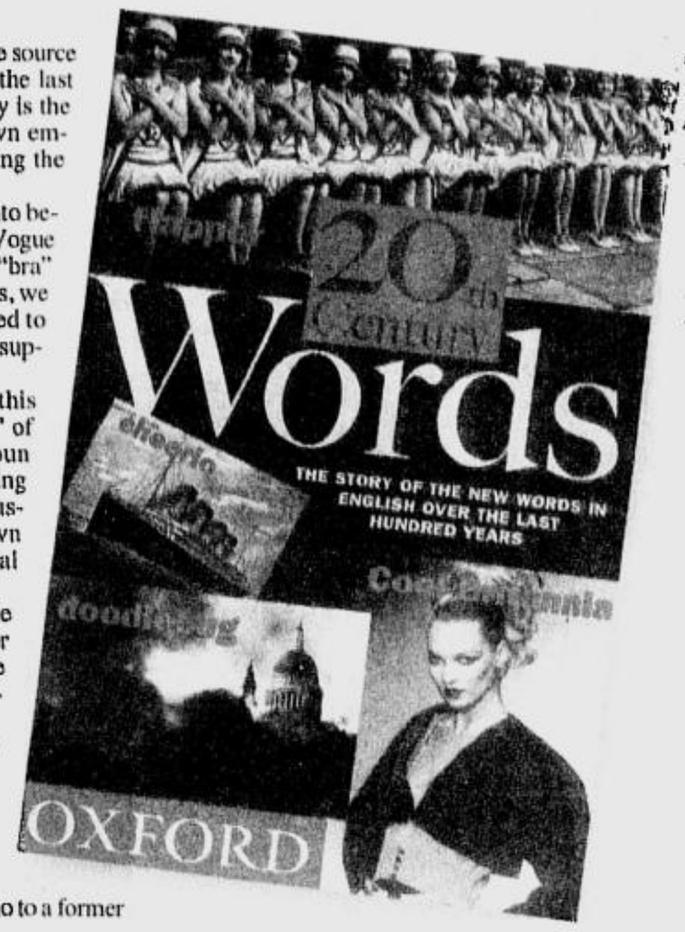
"Fiber optics" emerged into the verbal scene in 1956 (and we thought it was much later!), written up by the Times, which said: "If one beam of light can be transmitted along a glass tube, why not transmit detailed images along the same path?"

Robert Kennedy was right: Ask "why not?"—not "why?" That one question has become the mother of inventions many times over.

And do you know when "Pac-Man" intruded into our consciousness? It was 1981, courtesy of a proprietary name of a computer game featuring a voracious blob-shaped character. Well, at home, media have christened one industrialist "Pac-Man" for the same reason.

Finally, in 1994, a fitting parting shot for this review, where did "mwah" come from? The Independent, in 1998 used it with effect: "He is half-Czech, half-Spanish, beautifully groomed, deliciously perfumed, around 60, and a great air-kisser, mwah, mwah!" You got it: the word is a representation of an air kiss. Close to home, a sixty-something commissioner had no use for air between his lips and a lady commissioner—and so he was jolted by a rebuke: *"Ano ba yan, Lolo!"*

Now you know why you shouldn't miss this collection. The words capture the pulse—and impulse—of the world throughout the century that just came to pass. And, then, without warning, the words inspire you to remember local words and phrases that capture the nation's temper and tempests. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*



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Channels which will no longer be carried include ESPN, STAR Movies, National Geographic, STAR Sports, STAR World, VIVA Cinema, Channel [V] and others.

This action was necessary due to these cable systems' non-payment of millions of dollars of fees to STAR and ESPN STAR Sports. Some of these debts date back to last year.

STAR sincerely apologizes for the frustration that the absence of STAR channels will cause our loyal viewers, particularly at a time when the cable companies are planning to raise their subscription fees.

We hope that the matter will be resolved quickly and the normal service will be resumed.

Viewers in Metro Manila can still enjoy their favorite STAR channels, and the ESPN and STAR Sports Channels on Destiny Cable; Las Pinas / Parañaque Cable; and Global Cable.

Viewers in the rest of the Philippines can access the full range of channels on the DTH operator Dream Broadcasting, and through their local cable companies.

Sincerely

Charles Pollard
Regional Director
STAR Group Limited
21 October 2001

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Cash in on holiday spending with ham

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

THE HOLIDAYS are just around the corner and for most Filipino families, *noche buena* and *media noche* are not complete without the traditional Christmas ham.

For those who are looking for a business to get into to cash in on the holiday spending spree, making Christmas hams may be an option if you have an initial capital of P300,000.

About P200,000 would be used to acquire the equipment such as the tumblers, injectors and a good freezer and another P100,000 for the raw materials such as the pork *pigue* and spices. With this initial fund, you can sell about 350 kilos of Christmas ham.

The capital also includes the cost of marketing and distributing the initial batch of Christmas hams.

A small meat processor interviewed by the INQUIRER said that ham production is quite capital intensive because of the equipment. But he is quick to add that it is quite profitable to go into the business because the margins are quite high.

How To

There is room to raise profit margins during this time because people have money to spend and it is almost a given that there will be at least one Christmas ham for every family.

This is one reason why many companies that sell only ham have survived all these years such as Excelente and Majestic Ham. It was only recently that Filipinos have taken to eating ham even if it is not Christmas.

He said that this is the right time to start getting into the ham business. The prospective entrepreneur can start building up inventory through October and November and then sell the stored ham in December.

Under the right storage conditions, ham can last as long as a year without losing the flavor and the quality of the meat.

You can still take market away from the big processed meat producers by putting in your own formula. One word about the Filipino taste though, ham should be on the sweet side, unlike Chinese ham which is quite salty.

Ten steps in ham processing

1. Carefully select the raw materials, primarily the pork ham leg.
2. Trim the ligaments and soft fats to keep the meat lean.
3. Inject the meat with curing solution made of salt, sugar and,phosphate and other spices you prefer.
4. Store the meat in a curing room for about a week to further enhance the flavor.
5. Use a tumbler to massage the meat, make it tender and enhance the juiciness.
6. Stuff the meat in a net or plastic to achieve the desired shape and size of the ham.
7. Cook the ham. Cooking means drying, smoking and steaming.
8. Glaze the ham with sugar and pineapple jelly.
9. Put the meat in a vacuum pouch to seal in the flavor and aroma
10. Store the ham at required temperature before selling.

ENTREPRENEURS should start making their Christmas hams now, just like the CDO group of companies.

VALDEPEÑAS circa 1970s during his days at Citibank

He was king . . .

(From page B1)

denly I felt some people pushing me and then they went down. It was only later that I realized that my wallet was gone. Just like that I lost the first money I ever earned. I never forgot it," Valdepeñas, president and chief operating officer of the Union Bank of the Philippines, tells the INQUIRER.

While teaching at UST, Valdepeñas was also taking his masters in economics in UP.

There is no use crying over spilled milk, so Valdepeñas just went on teaching until 1972 when his professor at UP, Dr. Gerardo Sicat, got him and a few others to join him at the National Economic and Development Authority where Sicat was appointed director general.

Valdepeñas says his stint at Neda was fulfilling because he was able to apply what he learned from school and he was in the company of good people.

It was a wonderful time for young graduates, he says. It was the age of the Beatles and like most of the people at that time, he kept his curly hair long. It was not as long as the others, he says, but it almost reached his shoulders.

"It is funny to look back on my pictures. My hair was so much longer and thicker," he says.

He was also much thinner and his clothes were something else but he would not be caught dead wearing them now.

"We wore Banlon shirts. No one knows it now but at that time, it was like saying that you wore Lacoste shirts," he explains.

He wore those shirts to Neda where he was appointed assistant director for economic planning and research. He gladly welcomed the chance to apply what he learned in economics and to help his country in his own small way.

Neda

His contemporaries at the UP School of Economics include Ponciano Intal, former Budget secretary Benjamin Diokno, former Neda deputy director general Ruperto Alonzo and former Pag-ibig head Mel Alonzo.

Economics was actually just an acquired taste for him, saying that his first plan was really to be an architect or engineer.

"I wanted to build things but eventually I found that economics is one of the best disciplines because I believe that people are always concerned about economics. It is an interplay of different factors," Valdepeñas explains.

It was while working with Neda that Valdepeñas made the jump to the corporate world, joining Citibank N.A. as country economist and head of the economics department. At that time there were very few economists who worked in the corporate setting.

"Citibank took me in as a professional economist but later I was moved to the exciting world of treasury which I would say is true economics in motion," Valdepeñas says.

Valdepeñas ended up working for Citibank for 20 years, moving up the ranks from treasury marketing officer to deputy treasurer, trading group head and finally vice president or country treasurer for the bank before he moved on to the Union Bank of the Philippines, the banking arm of the Aboitiz group of companies.

During this time he got married to Teresita Pamulaklakin,a microbiologist graduate of UP Los Baños.

Banker

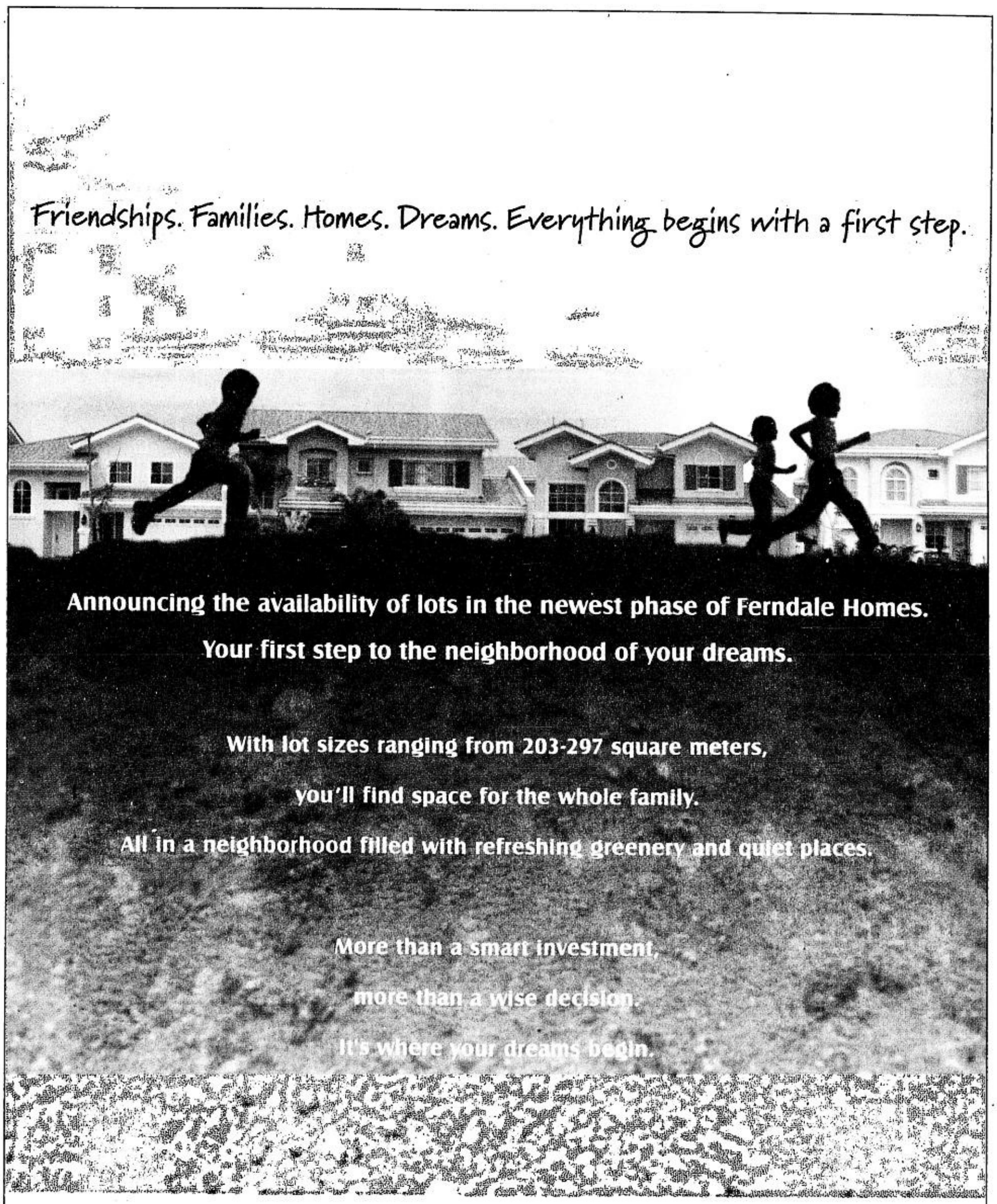
His experience at the treasury department gave him enough confidence to take on the challenge of eventually being chief operating officer of the bank. But he has never turned his back on his economist's side.

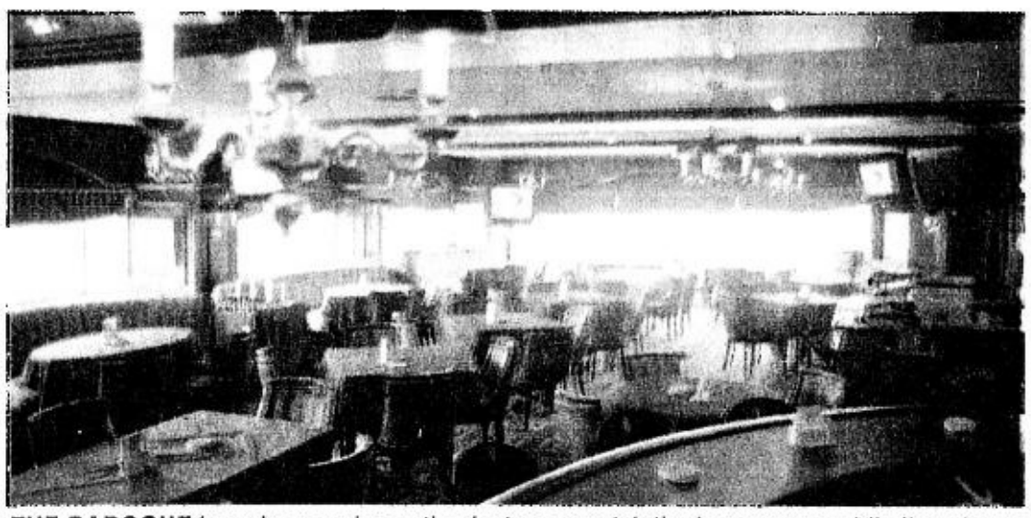
"I would say that I am one of a few in the banking industry who can talk in the exact same language as the economists. I am still active in the economics associations and I still get in touch with my friends from the academic community," Valdepeñas adds.

Valdepeñas, however, takes all the challenges in stride. One of the ways to beat stress is to go to his farm in Los Baños, Laguna overlooking Laguna Lake, where he is happy to watch his fruit trees and flowers grow.

He says going to his farm allows him to leave his business far behind.

"I bought that property over 20 years ago because it was near my in-laws' house. It used to be just an idle piece of property but we developed it slowly. It is not that big but when it is harvest time, we have more than enough for ourselves and our friends," Valdepeñas says.





THE BAROQUE bar where racing enthusiasts can watch the horse races while listening to piano music.
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

A FULLY-EQUIPPED gym awaits those who want to exercise and keep in shape.

THE REMBRANDT Spa offers treatments from head to toe such as facials, salt scrub, body wrap and dermatological treatments.

Focusing on local firms and executives

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MOST hotels in Metro Manila cater to the foreign market, not Hotel Rembrandt.

The six-story hotel with 65 rooms and suites is geared towards attracting the local business market, including big corporate customers such as the pharmaceutical companies, business associations and other companies based in the Quezon City area.

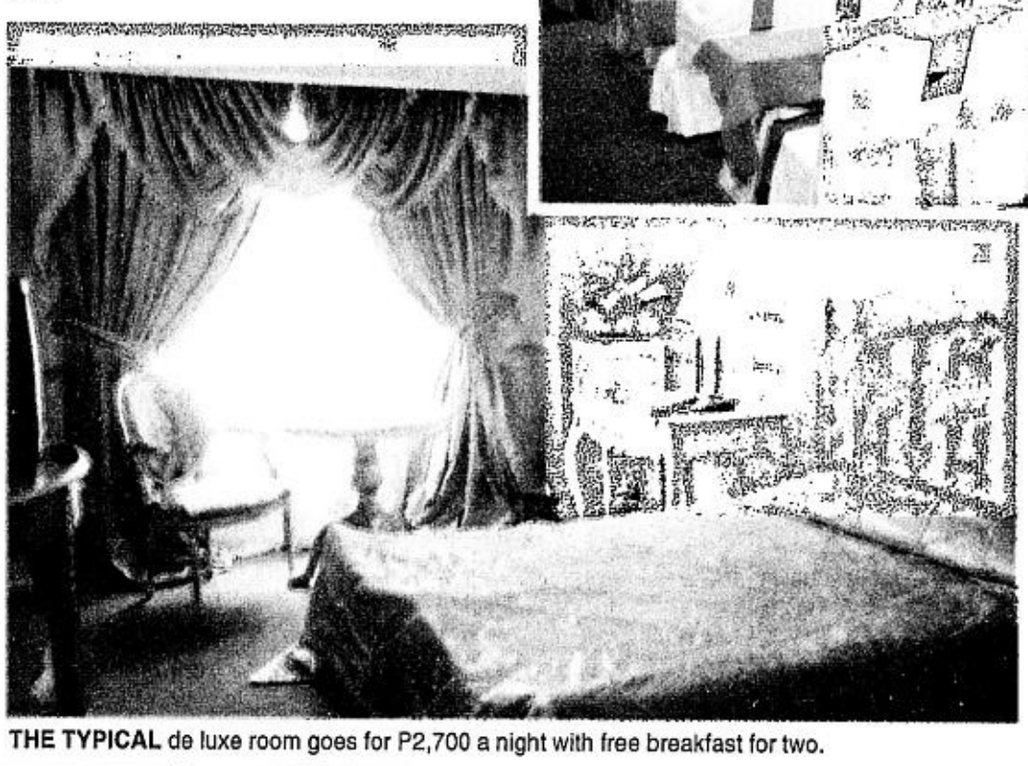
Rembrandt's marketing manager Corina D. Singson says the hotel has attracted a lot of customers over the past six years due to its friendly rates and extensive facilities.

Aside from business travelers, Rembrandt has also become a popular venue for weddings, functions and meetings. It also operates a spa that has become a watering hole for businessmen and executives looking for some stress relief at the end of a working day.

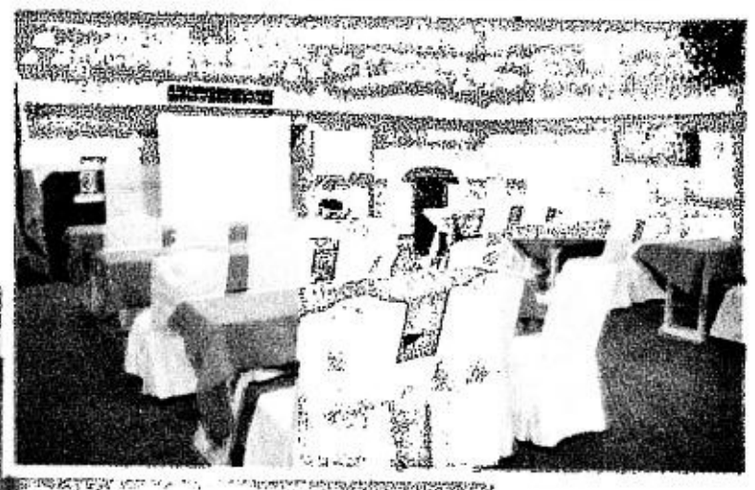
The Hotel Rembrandt is also unique for its Renaissance style interiors. Each room is adorned with a reproduction of the famous works of the great painter after whom the hotel is named.

But more than the facilities, it is the service that the hotel strives to keep itself above the rest.

THE RECEPTION area of Hotel Rembrandt's executive suite that costs P3,900 a night.

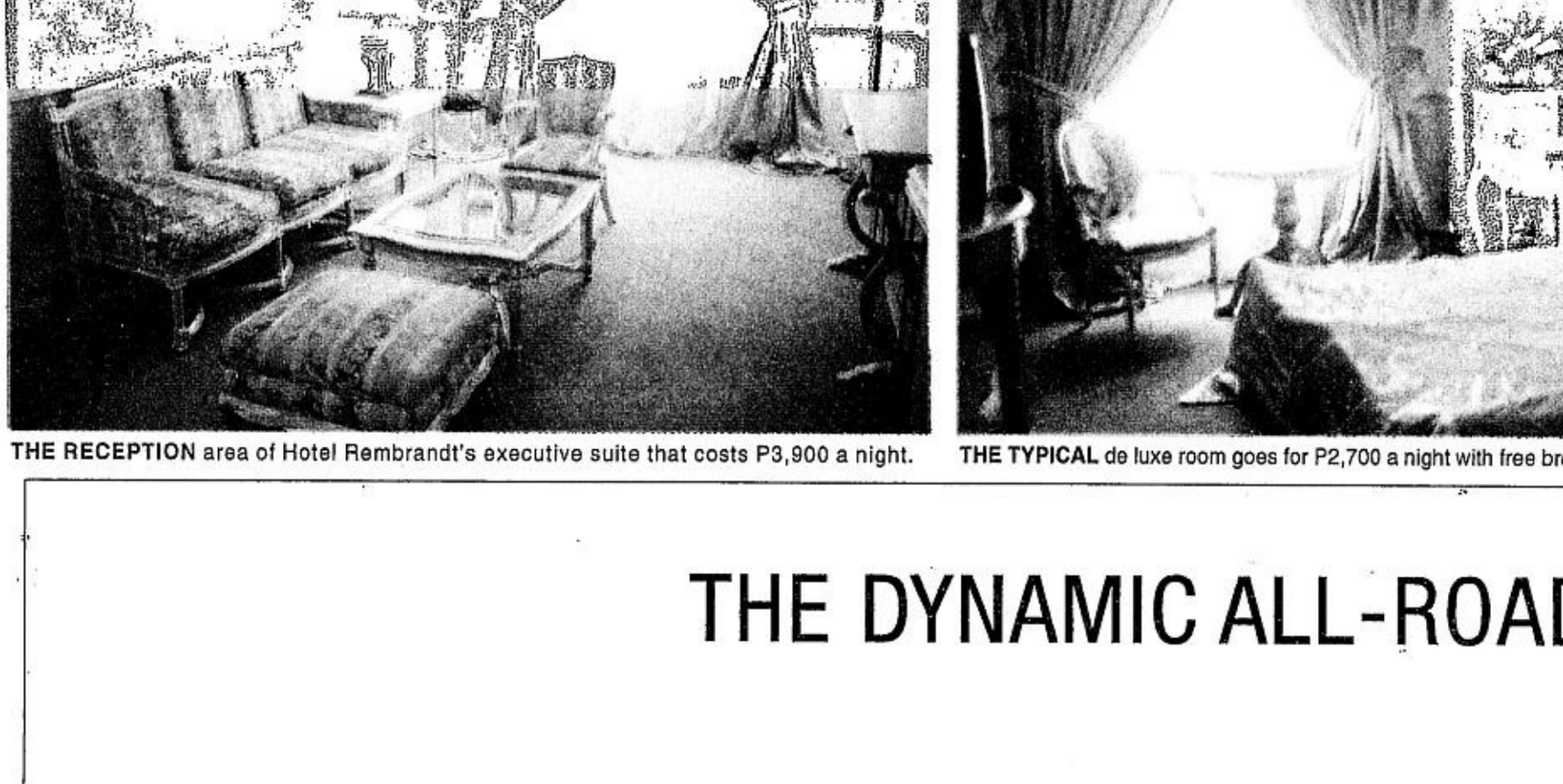


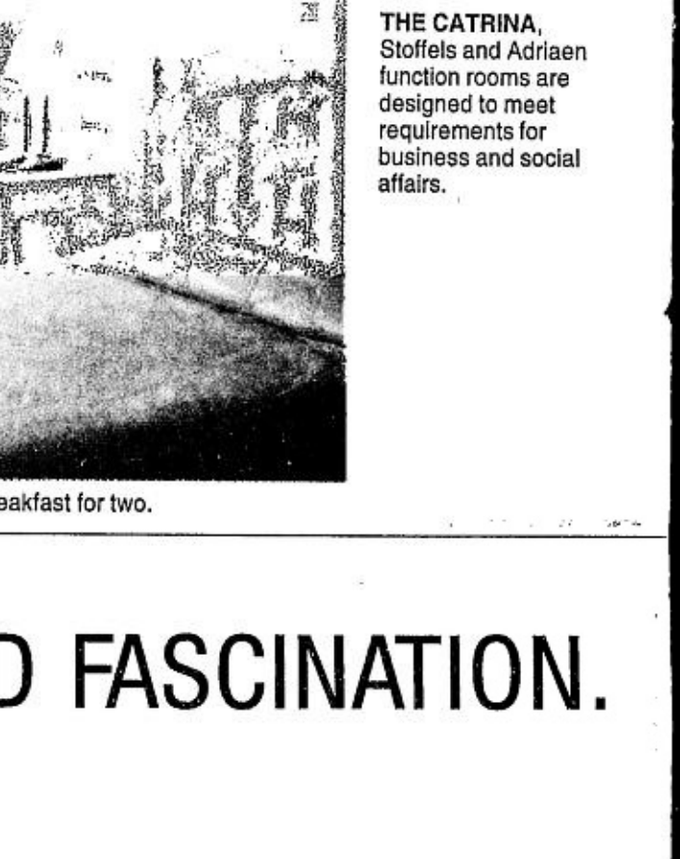
THE TYPICAL de luxe room goes for P2,700 a night with free breakfast for two.



THE CATRINA, Stoffels and Adriaen function rooms are designed to meet requirements for business and social affairs.

THE DYNAMIC ALL-ROAD FASCINATION.





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HAND-MADE SCISSORS

At the economy's cutting edge

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—Not wanting to end up like his father who labored hard everyday while stripped to the waist as a *panday* in a backyard scissors-making shop, Rudy Breva worked his way through high school and landed a job at a government hospital.

But realizing shortly after having a family of his own, with two young daughters coming in short succession, that his government pay is nowhere near enough to afford three decent meals a day, he decided he had to do something to survive.

So he dug up the remaining P500 from his savings to start a scissors-making shop at the backyard of his rented *nipa* hut in this city, exactly as his father did.

Gamble

"We took a gamble by investing our last money in the only business that we could run by ourselves. Years later, we realized that we hit a gold mine which I earlier, as young man, mistook to be a poor man's destiny," Breva, 58, told the INQUIRER as he pondered a comfortable life after his retirement from his job as a letter carrier at the Philippine Postal Office.

Although Tabaco City has long become famous for its wide range of world–class hand-made cutlery products—such as shaving razors, Japanese samurai sword replicas and a whole range of knives and garden tools—he concentrated on making scissors, which by far remains the most popular and profitable product, he explained.

The 80s were the golden decade for the cutlery industry in Tabaco City, particularly for its famed scissors, he said.

"Muslim traders and wholesalers coming from Davao, Zamboanga and elsewhere from the southern regions were competing with dealers and exporters from Metro Manila who bought any number of scissors we could produce," he said.

Breva added that little has changed in the making of scissors since its pioneering days here in the early 20s, except for the electric motors that have replaced the foot-cranked grinders and blowers.

Production still involves hard and dedicated skilled work.

FELICIA Bonaobra,55, cutlery products storeowner at the Tabaco City supermarket, displays a shining pair of scissors.

Process

Major work starts from the *bahan* (forging) where the red-hot steel is meticulously pounded into shape in a manner that has not changed in many years.

Then, the now scissors-shaped blades go through the *mullon* or rough grinding where afterwards they are subjected to a second but finer grinding process called the *buli* and the *lukas* or tempering.

The final phase of production is the *areglar*, where the scissors are screwed together and tested for quality.

"In this later phase, the barber's scissors, for example, should be able to cut cleanly and crisply through the finest hair in order to pass quality control. The same goes for the tailor's scissors, which are tested in various fabrics," he said.

A highly skilled *panday* could finish from five to 10 dozen pairs in a day, depending on the type and size of the piece under the *pakyaw* system, in which a worker is paid by the number of pieces he produces.

Some of the more expensive ranges are the *basyado*, or the hollow-ground, like the master cutter's scissors and the top quality barber's scissors which cost from P400 to P600 per pair.

The ordinary all-purpose *colado* costs from P55 to P75 each pair.

Success and threat

Breva was much too humble to tell how much he and his wife had earned from the enterprise.

But he took pride on their daughters. Emily, a law graduate, is now working in the government while preparing for the bar examinations while Judy is a resident doctor at the geriatrics department of the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

The cutlery entrepreneur has long discarded his old bicycle for a motorcycle to do the mail delivery round and a car.

His family lives conformably in a three-bedroom concrete house in the lot they once rented in Barangay Baranghawon, not far from the city center.

But amid Breva's success story is the unsettling fear for the future, which is shared by some 60 other producers in the industry in a greater or lesser degree.

Triggered by the economic slowdown in most parts of the world and the simmering armed conflict in Mindanao, the Muslim traders and other buyers have not been coming as frequently as they did before.

Breva said his business had dipped by as much as 80 percent during the last five years, and there are worrisome signs of worse things yet to come.

In the local cutlery business alone, this could affect more than 500 families, which are directly involved in the industry.

Tourists

The row of some 30 GI sheet-roofed stalls at the back of the downtown supermarket is the main block for the display of a wide range of shiny cutlery that could easily equip an army of barbers, cooks, tailors and gardeners.

This area was once a beehive of activity because of the tourists who patronized the products. Indeed, the products on display are some of the best *pasalubong* that truly last and are useful.

Manning one of these stalls is Felicia Bonaobra, 55, who said she inherited the business from her parents when it was booming.

"In fact, I raised all my four children and sent them through college out of this business because of the tourists, who would buy in bulk and do not haggle. They were my best customers," she said.

But Bonaobra lamented that very few tourists had been coming recently and she was looking forward to the next summer vacation when she hoped they would come.

Pioneer

In 1922, an amateur barber and a blacksmith's assistant broke a borrowed pair of scissors.

WORKER pounds to shape a blade of a scissor. PHOTOS BY ROLY EMBILE

Not having enough money to buy an expensive replacement, Fidel Vosotros, not only made a replacement for the broken half but also fashioned a whole pair which proved better than the original.

From then on Vosotros, whose education did not go beyond the first grade, honed his skill and perfected the mass production of the now world-famous scissors under his own FV brand.

Thus began the cutlery-making business that has sustained the economy of the once agricultural seaport town of Tabaco in Albay province as its top income earner and employer outside of agriculture.

Three years later in 1925, Vosotros received a golden Omega pocket watch from Commonwealth President Manuel Quezon for winning first prize in the Philippine Carnival for his high quality scissors.

The following year, the Philippine Carnival Association awarded him the second prize "for his continued pioneering work in the metal craft industry in the country."

As a unique tribute to an industry that has not only sustained the economy of this boom town but has also made its product synonymous with the character of the place and its people, the city included the *bolo* in its official seal.

Some markers at the approaches to the city also include the scissors.

Export trail

Following his footsteps, Vosotros' son, Edmundo, initiated the expansion of the cutlery industry to include the mass production of hand-made razors, bolo and knives, Japanese samurai sword replicas and a whole range of garden tools.

Just like his father, the younger Vosotros in 1965 cashed in on the growing popularity of his father's blades by blazing an export trail to the United States and the rest of North America.

A brass plaque and a trophy given to him by then President Ferdinand Marcos in Malacañang on Oct. 10, 1968 as a contributor to the Philippine economy in the field of metal craft say tons about his effort.

He now heads the Tabaco Cutlery Producers Association, which consists of some 70 backyard shop owners and operators.

Tabaco City remains at the epicenter of the wave of popularity of its scissors.

Smaller yet persistent waves, however, have recently been coming from the Southern Tagalog Region, particularly Santa Rosa and San Pedro towns of Laguna, where some of Tabaco's best scissors-makers have exported their skill and expertise.

Although faced with the difficult task of raising the cutlery industry out of the economic doldrums, Vosotros somehow sees a silver lining in the clouds.

He said the Canadian International Development Agency, through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, and Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects have expressed willingness to help the industry by improving the workers' skills and transfer of technology.

If these projects succeed, the local cutlery has a better chance of competing in the global market

"We are in dire need of help to be able to cope with the difficult situation and we appreciate whatever support we could get," he said.

Perhaps the best encouragement yet may be reflected in the words of the enduring faith of 69-year-old Jose Callos, the oldest practicing barber in this city, who said he had not used any other scissors but the home-made ones since he started as a barber's apprentice in 1962.

"Tabaco makes the best scissors so that I would not be comfortable with anything made somewhere else, even with a pair of (German-made) Solingen," he added.

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

PhilHealth cautions public against fake Medicare checks

THE PHILIPPINE Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) today warned the public against individuals peddling fake Medicare checks being used to rediscount purchases in department stores and groceries.

PhilHealth president and CEO Dr. Francisco T. Duque III said that PhilHealth's continuous check blank forms have been copied and samples of these were recently discovered in San Fernando, Pampang using the account number maintained by Region I Health Insurance Office based in Dagupan City.

"Five pieces of spurious checks with a total worth of P41,698.25 were reportedly transacted at a rediscounted price to a grocery owner who, in turn, tried to have them encashed at Land Bank's branch in San Fernando, Pampanga," Duque said.

Another set of five spurious checks were deposited in banks in Bataan, with an aggregate amount of P41,188.45. "We have about 46 documented cases of similar nature, 18 of which come from Region I," Duque added.

Laboratory tests done by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas revealed that the checks, which bore scanned signatures of authorized signatories, were indeed fake. The paper and the ink used were not genuine.

PhilHealth is now investigating the matter to avert its further proliferation in other regions. It is also instituting measures to safeguard its existing checks from being tampered, while alerting all branches of the LBP nationwide for possible incidence of unauthorized encashments or deposits.

At the same time, Duque called on the public, especially owners of business establishments, to exercise extreme caution in accepting second-endorsed Medicare checks as payment for purchases or utility bills payments.

SIEMENS SUPPLIES MERALCO SYSTEM

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) recently awarded Siemens Power Transmission and Distribution a contract for the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of a Distribution Automation System, which is expected to provide for greater ease of operation of Meralco's distribution and subtransmission networks. The installation of this automation system is also considered to be the first step towards Meralco's goal of fully automating its distribution network. Part of the Distribution Automation System is the Expert System, which will provide full operator support in order to reduce system losses and increase efficiency. Because of this, Meralco customers can expect quicker response times and also shorter annual outage time. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Nicanor Agon, Siemens Inc. vice president for power transmission and distribution; Hans Weckherlin, Siemens Inc. president and CEO; Dr. Uriel Sharef, member of the corporate executive committee of Siemens AG; Manuel M. Lopez, Meralco chair and CEO; Jesus P. Francisco, Meralco president and COO; Pepito A. Pablo, Meralco vice president and head of T&D, and Daniel D. Tagaza, Meralco senior vice president and CFO.

PHAP DONATION

The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), in celebration of its 55th anniversary, has recently donated P1 million worth of medicines to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) for the victims of the Mayon Volcano eruption, as part of its commitment to provide relief services to the country in times of calamities. Shown are (from left) Leo Wassmer, Jr., executive vice president and CEO of PHAP; Rosa Rosal, governor, PNRC, and Edwin Feist, president of PHAP.

Brand-Rex cabling solutions showcased at Commasia 2001

BRAND-REX, a major global supplier of datacom and telecom cabling solutions, was an active participant in the recent CommAsia 2001, the most comprehensive IT and communications event to be organized in the country.

A world leader in specialist cabling solutions for the military, aerospace, automotive and mass transit industries, Brand-Rex showcased its new Blolite technology, the latest technology for fiber connection which is expected to make a strong impact in the cabling solutions industry. Blolite is the air-blown fiber system from Brand-Rex which benefits users on account of its flexibility and deferred costs.

Brand-Rex provides state-of-the-art quality products which not only meet but also surpass existing international standards. All Brand-Rex products are designed to minimize environmental impact by the use of materials and construction that facilitate long life, re-use, recycling and proper disposal.

Microwarehouse Inc. is a primary provider of Brand-Rex cabling products. It has built a network of over 600 dealers nationwide.

Organized by IIR Exhibitions Philippines Inc. (IIRX), CommAsia 2001 presented the huge information and communications technology market by bringing together all sectors involved – telecommunications, broadcast, electronics, information technology and e-commerce.

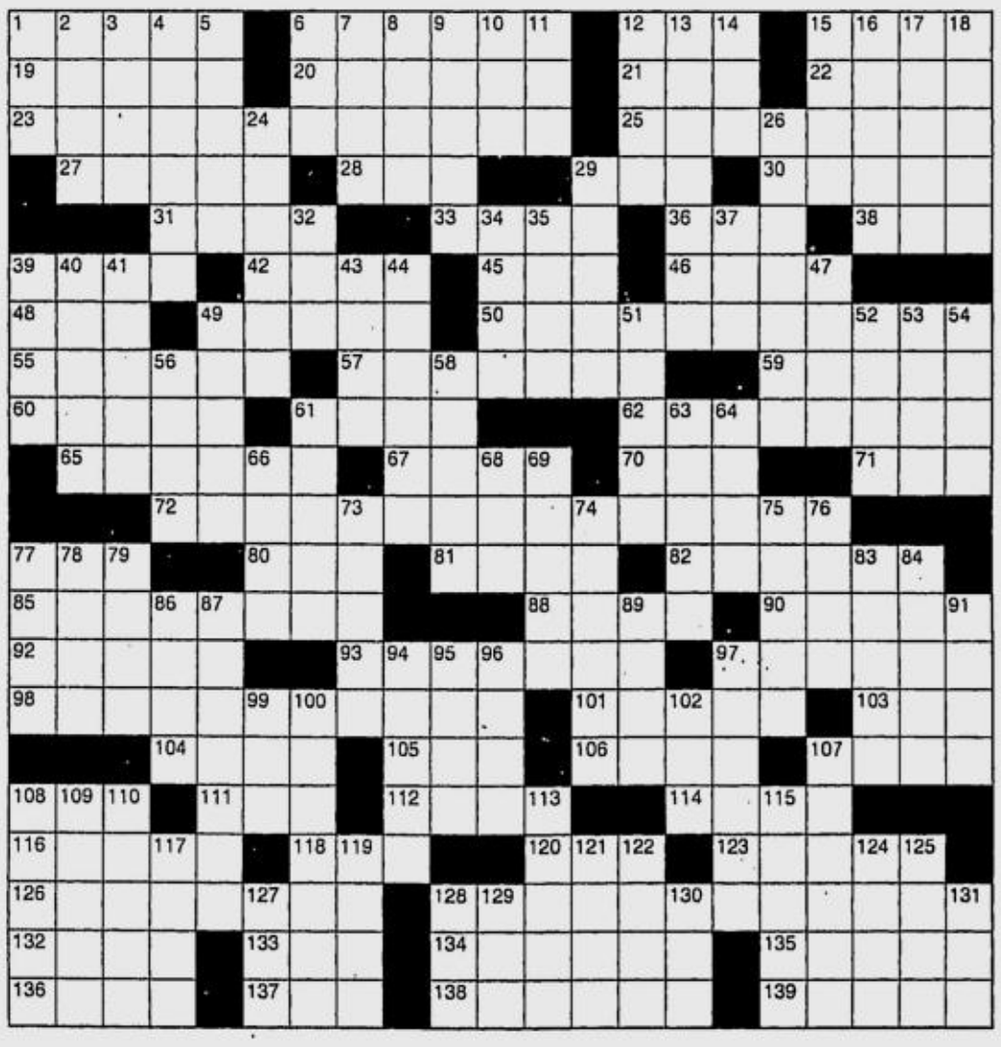
Queries regarding Brand-Rex cabling solutions may be address to Microwarehouse at 637-0474 to 85.

TRAP IN SPORTS SHOW

The Philippines' first outdoor sporting event, Outdoor Sports Show 2001 ongoing until today, Oct. 21 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, is actively supported by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP). TRAP organized the Subic Bay International Triathlon meet, which has been sanctioned by the International Triathlon Union as one of its international events where ranking points can be earned by world triathletes. The Outdoor Sports Show 2001 is organized by TradeShow International Inc. (TSI). The event showcases interesting categories such as mountain biking, canoeing, rock climbing, scuba diving, rallying, fishing, golfing, and even bungee jumping. Shown at the contract signing are (seated, from left) Sophie delos Santos, TSI president; Tomas Carrasco, TRAP president, and Carlo Carrasco, TRAP public relations officer. Standing are Cynthia Tanyag (left), TSI project executive and Sol Vargas, TRAP marketing officer.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

JIM WORKOUT



ACROSS

1 Fit for a king
6 Wandered
12 Qty.
15 Secure a carpet
19 Simpson of fashion
20 Jockey legend
21 "Later!"
22 "East of Eden" character
23 Jim Reeves song
25 Jim Bouton book
27 Ashcan artist John
28 Bach's "Bist du bei —"
29 Guys
30 Practice piece
31 Stumble
33 Notion
36 Flavor enhancer
38 Word with take or hang
39 They're often glossed over
42 Coffee containers
45 Put away a pie
46 "Might be!"
48 Cookbook phrase
49 Henry — Lodge
50 "Jim Dandy" singer
55 Prayer book
57 Ran circles around
59 Jargon
60 "— Instinct" ('92 film)
61 Effluvium
62 Recreation center
65 Toothy?
67 Singer Simone
70 "Evil Woman" rockers
71 Mao — -tung
72 Jim Backus sitcom
77 Peculiar
80 Pitch in
81 Pull the Trigger?
82 Pianist Jose
85 Arm of the Atlantic
88 Con
90 Guitarist Eddy
92 Missouri River city
93 Socks
97 Alley cat?
98 Jim Anderson's portrayer
101 Designer Perry
103 — -Locka, FL
104 Melville work
105 Excessively
106 Hold as an opinion
107 Tipplers
108 Give in to gravity
111 Pot-au- —
112 Spanish river
114 Director Hooper
116 Pianist Claudio
118 Deface
120 '83 Duran Duran hit
123 Talmadge or Shearer
126 Jim Carrey movie
128 Jim Messina's partner
132 — Spumante
133 Heredity letters
134 Climax
135 "Caro nome" singer
136 Exploit
137 The end?
138 Spuds
139 Firm

DOWN

1 Sound from the stands
2 Horace's output
3 Roar
4 Divvies up
5 "Paganini" composer
6 —4 (Toyota model)
7 Utah city
8 Where Hamlet meets Dad
9 Native New Zealander
10 Unit of work
11 TV's "Scooby- —"
12 Singer Lane
13 Burma, today
14 — Aviv
15 Wilson's predecessor
16 See 77 Down
17 Uncouth
18 Actress Black
24 Gorilla or groundhog
26 Easily read
29 Novelist Binchy
32 British bar
34 Spanish surrealist
35 Coup d'—
37 Form of ID
39 Ewe's youngster
40 Ancient epic
41 Once fashionable
43 Virtuous
44 Like Hercules
47 So-so
49 Southwestern stickers
51 Adds fringe
52 Trunk feature
53 Hollywood clashers
54 The Pantheon's setting
56 Star in "Salome"
58 Prickly plant
61 Tillstrom puppet
63 TV's "Kate & —"
64 Ditch under a drawbridge
66 "Oh, woe!"
68 Vane dir.
69 Confidential comment
73 Moscow's locale
74 Toughened up
75 Artistic subjects
76 Medicine
77 With 16 Down, approximately
78 Major- —
79 Boring
83 "The Jungle Book" bear
84 Bumbling
86 Lieutenant Kojak
87 Detrimental
89 Goofy Gomer
91 Ages
94 Peripheral
95 Stuck-up sort
96 Sikorsky or Stravinsky
97 Kobe robe
99 Low digit
100 "No, No, Nanette" composer
102 Permit
107 Franchi or Mendes
108 Cole slaw, e.g.
109 Originate
110 Prepare the Parmesan
113 "Ready —, here I come!"
115 Baseball's Wade
117 Like the Negev
119 Composer Khachaturian
121 Dramatist William
122 — and terminer
124 Factory
125 "— Love Her" ('64 hit)
127 A mean Amin
128 Herriman's "Krazy —"
129 Antipollution grp.
130 Baxter or Brown
131 Dejected

ANSWER ON PAGE B7

'Bitin' over Eng Bee Tin

BEE Bee Chinese Deli, the sister company of Eng Bee Tin, has been well known as a producer of Chinese delicacies. Its products include the popular *hopia ube, mongo, baboy*, red beans, high-fiber *pinya*, a wide variety of *tikoy*, 8 treasures, white and brown sugar and mooncakes in a variety of fillings.

Eng Bee Tin Chinese delicacies are produced using the highest-grade ingredients suited for the health-conscious. It uses 100-percent corn oil and condensed milk (instead of skimmed milk), and eggs. It has earned the distinction of having unmatched taste and unparalleled value.

Eng Bee Tin owner Gerry Chua (''Mr. Ube'' as he is popularly called) has made the hopia a delicacy for all walks of life, especially when he introduced the flavored varieties that added delightful alternatives and new, fascinating tastes to an old product. This innovation has given Eng Bee Tin steady patronage not only from Chinese and Filipino consumers, but also people from mainland United States, Guam, Hawaii, Japan, Italy, and the Middle East.

Bee Bee Chinese Deli is found at 518 Quintin Paredes Street, near Binondo Church; at 650 Ongpin Street, Binondo, Manila; at Masagana Citimall, GL-8 2410-2432, Taft Avenue corner Libertad Street; and at Masagana Superstore, TM Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

PCCI-JRU MOA SIGNED

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Jose Rizal University (JRU) recently signed an MOA where JRU will develop and offer a series of short-term learning courses exclusively for PCCI members to focus on the enhancement of leadership and management competencies. The core set of programs designed to address PCCI membership needs will be structured so that they can be eventually credited to applicable graduate programs in duly government-accredited educational institutions. Interested parties can call Grace Morella care of PCCI at 843-3168, Eds Banzal, Francis Magno or Yolly Tatad care of JRU at 531-8031 to 35. Shown signing the MOA are lawyer Miguel B. Varela, PCCI president, and Dr. Jose D. Baltazar, JRU president. Witnessing the signing, standing from left, are Jim Castro, JRU consultant, Dr. Vincent K. Fabella, JRU executive vice president, and Francisco R. Floro, PCCI vice president for SME.

DATAONE ASIA'S APPRECIATION NIGHT

DataOne Asia's deputy CEO Michael Warren (left) welcomes George Kintanar (right), consultant for Information Commission Technology (ICT) and Telecommunications Regulation during DataOne Asia (Philippines) Inc.'s 'Appreciation Night'. The well-attended event held recently at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel was participated in by their business partners. DataOne Asia is Asia's leading managed service provider.

Talk straight to your target market

BY ROGER PE

HE IS handsome. Educated. Upwardly mobile.

He reads the main broadsheets and is up-to-date with international news. You can talk about everything under the sun and there's never a dull moment with him.

He is cosmopolitan and techno-savvy. He has impeccable taste. He goes to the gym four times a week. While guys of his age have become slobs and grown beer-bellies, he's still as gorgeous as the first time you saw him.

You would say he is the perfect guy to bring home to mom and marry. And he has something some, or most of us don't have—disposable income.

Before you get excited, we'll tell you straight that he is gay. Oops . . . any apprehensions? Shall we continue?

How can you advertise to a market that is cynical about being targeted by advertisers?

The following facts might open your minds. They are based on the latest Birrell-Rapson report from Monash University, Australia on a census on gay men in de facto relationships:

- 28 percent are professionals, compared with other men.
- 32 percent had a bachelors degree or higher, compared with 13 percent of heterosexual men.
- 26 percent of older gay men earned more than $52,000 a year, compared with 19 percent of heterosexual men.
- According to a Mardi Gras survey, 65 percent of Mardi Gras members have access to the internet.

Figures for the 1998 Significant Others Sydney Star Observer readers' survey shows:

- 49 percent of readers own a personal computer, and 40.5 percent have their own modem.
- 42 percent traveled overseas during the preceding 12 months for holidays.
- 45 percent have a mobile phone.
- 14 percent are connected to pay TV.

While there are no official survey conducted on gay men's profile in the Philippines, the figure could be as close to the above-mentioned data. If that is correct, you might be stepping on a gold mine with the color pink.

The "pink" market is now recognized as a powerful force by big marketers in large companies. In the UK for example, the drinks and lodging giant Bass has just opened 28 gay pubs to cash in on this lucrative market.

In 2002, Sydney will host the Gay Games, for which sponsorships are still available. The previous Gay Games held in Amsterdam in 1998 attracted more competitors than the Olympics, although fewer spectators. Heineken beer was to have been the major alcohol sponsor for the Gay Games in Amsterdam, but at the last minute it got cold feet and canceled its sponsorship without giving a reason.

Cries of homophobia reverberated throughout the world's media. In response, gays and lesbians in Europe decided to boycott Heineken beer. The ban had such an effect on Heineken sales that the company was forced to write an apology to the Gay Games committee.

The real opener and bonus is that gays usually do not have children. It costs a fortune to raise a child over 20 years and they usually have an extra pocket to spend over the next decades.

The gay market is also a high affinity group. They want to trade with those who are interested in building a relationship. According to Danny Vadasz, CEO of gay marketing consultancy Bluestone Media, "they feel a bond with companies that show they are on their side. While generic ads may be irrelevant, gross stereotypes can be offensive, such as an overuse of drag imagery."

As a sophisticated market, the gay community likes ads that have clever copy, stylish layout and are provocative. "It is not a conservative community. It is used to shocking and enjoys it. The community responds to cheekiness in ads," Vadasz says.

In Australia, the seminal ad for the gay community was made for Toyota in 1990. The ad pictured a Toyota Corolla with two men and a dog in front of a terrace house. The caption read "The Family Car," which was seen as a strong statement of support for the legal rights of marriage for the gay and lesbian community.

The ad was made by the Australian gay magazine Outrage because nobody at Toyota or its ad agency felt they understood gay tastes well enough. The ad had a strong effect on sales. It was also hailed as a world first and republished by gay newspapers in the US.

Although many companies can benefit from marketing to gays, it is important to check whether there is a predisposition in the market to buy your product. It is necessary for a company to check that it is gay-friendly before it tries to capture the pink peso. While a good marketing campaign could be destroyed by the publicity of an employee who alleges sexual harassment on the grounds of sexuality, a company that has non-discriminatory employment practices will gain goodwill from the politically aware gay community.

As gays have greater impact on mainstream culture, many people advertising to the mainstream community are employing gay imagery, recognizing the blurred lines between gay and straight. And as queer sexuality gains broader acceptance in society, more mainstream marketers will target gays. Marketers who cannot quickly learn how to appeal to this market may find in a few years time that their competitors have already captured the loyalties of gay consumers.

(The gay and other markets. Know their huge potentials in expanding your business. Call the 17th Ad Congress of the Philippines Secretariat now and register. Telephone number: 818-6158.

The author is VP of the Creative Guild of the Philippines.)

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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the banking industry's
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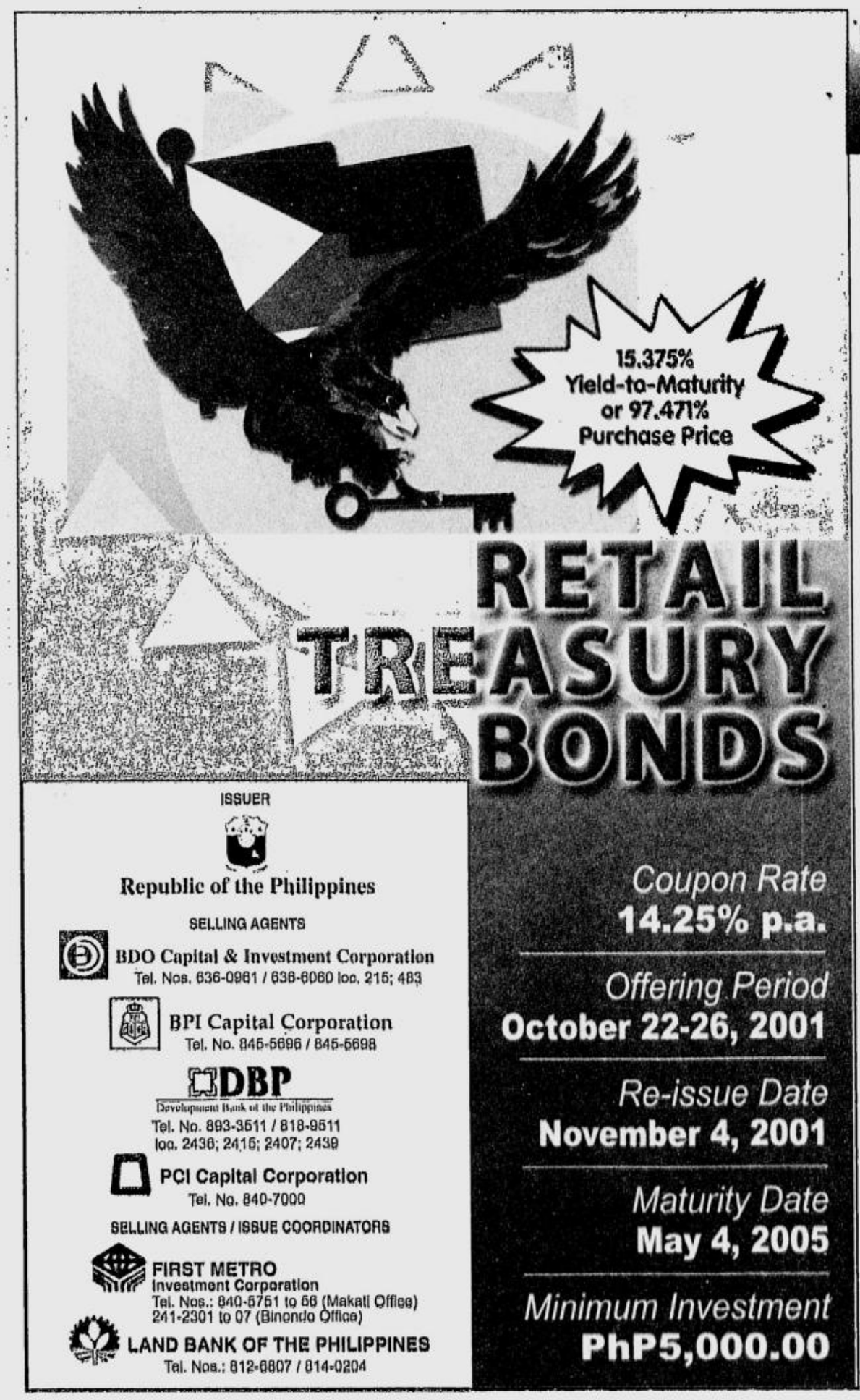

RETAIL TREASURY BONDS (RTBs)

1. **What are RTBs?**
   These are Government Securities principally for retail investors which will mature on May 4, 2005 for which coupon or yield shall be paid on a quarterly basis.
2. **Why should an investor invest in RTBs?**
   Because the RTBs are issued by the Republic of the Philippines, they are risk free (payment guaranteed), high yielding, tradeable and affordable.
3. **Who can purchase RTBs?**
   Any investor who has at least PhP5,000.00 can purchase RTBs.
4. **How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?**
   The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment. Additional requirements for institutional investors are copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures.
5. **After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?**
   Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.
6. **What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?**
   Because they are the direct and unconditional obligation of the Republic of the Philippines, RTBs are **RISK FREE** (payment guaranteed).
7. **What is an investor s proof of ownership?**
   The Investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).
8. **Where can an investor purchase RTBs?**
   An investor can purchase RTBs from any of the branches and/or business centers of the Selling Agents.

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SMART GOLD

SMART

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB MARKET
NATIONAL EDITION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2001 B

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This classified advertising section is published every Sunday and distributed nationwide.
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P230 per column centimeter (E-VAT exclusive).
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon
Please turn to page B16 for more classified ads.

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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Paid TOEFL/TWE	$ 110.00
Paid TSE	$ 150.00
Paid NCLEX Review	$ 300.00
Paid TSE Review	$ 150.00
Paid CGFNS Review	$ 150.00
Paid NCLEX Registration	$ 200.00
Paid Guam Package (Air/Hotel)	$ 580.00
Paid Air to the USA	$ 600.00
Paid Visa Application	$ 260.00
Paid Visa Documentation	$ 65.00
Paid Medical	$ 85.00
Paid State License	$ 265.00
Paid endorsement to Texas	$ 125.00
Paid Visa Screen Application	$ 325.00
Paid Corporate Housing (3 mo.)	$3750.00
Paid Three Months Trans.	$1000.00
Paid Sign On Bonus	$2000.00
Paid Relocation	$4500.00
Scrubs	$ 225.00

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Acceptance of applications - October 28
Final Interviews October 29 & 30

To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply immediately by submitting a comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcripts of records) board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs in:

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is now accepting applicants for
First Year Residency
beginning January 2002. The Medical City is an accredited tertiary training institution.
For inquiries, interested parties may call Ms. Cristy Orlina of the IRTC Office at **631-8626 local 623 or 731.**
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Analysts, Solicitors.
If you are college graduate, we train you.
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Mon.-Fri. look for Tina Lopez

WANTED
MEDICAL PROMOTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
- Female, single, between 21-27 years old
- With pleasing personality
- Self-motivated
- Hardworking, Honest

Please send your bio-data with 2X2 picture at
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FOR URGENT EMPLOYMENT
SALES ENGINEER
Qualifications:
- Graduate of any engineering course (preferably Civil or Mechanical Engineering)
- Must have Marketing experience in structural steel

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Preferably Female • Good Pay
Pls. Call 823-0857
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CP: 0917-4237515
ASK FOR DR. MINDA TIMTIMAN

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Applicants must at least have a background of law practice for three (3) years.

Interested parties shall file their application letters addressed to

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LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN
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SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- college graduate of any of the following: Electrical or Computer Engineering, Computer Science, other computer courses with technical capabilities
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- male or female
- with knowledge in assembling or repairing computers
- good communication skills
- willing to do field work
- good moral character

Interested parties, please apply IN PERSON at the above address, and bring one 2x2 picture with your bio-data and look for BENG.

St. Luke's Episcopal Health System, a recent recipient of the Magnet Award - the highest honor a healthcare organization can receive for nursing service, and ***Memorial Hermann Baptist Beaumont Hospital,*** *honored 100 top hospitals: Benchmark for Success Study, are ready, willing and able to sponsor*

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we offer extensive and highly individualized review courses for CGFNS, N-CLEX, TSE and computer-based TOEFL/TWE with

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RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS, INC.

The Consumers and E-Commerce Arm of the RISE Group of Companies

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WE INVITE highly motivated and results-oriented individuals with strong leadership qualities and excellent organizational and interpersonal communication skills; with pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character to become part of our growing company as:

❖ CORPORATE LEGAL OFFICER ❖

M/F, not more than 40 y/o; with relevant work experience in corporate lawyering, litigation, handling of public offerings, taxation and related fields. Must be a certified lawyer.

❖ TRAINORS ❖

M/F, 21-28 y/o; graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm, BS Education, Business course; with excellent oral and written communication skills; must be good in Public Speaking; highly computer literate; can handle pressure and can adapt to different situations; must be willing to be assigned in Metro Manila, in the province and/or in depressed areas.

❖ COORDINATORS ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of a Business course; with 3-5 yrs sales and marketing experience; must be proficient in oral and written communication; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to do field works.

❖ CORPORATE PRESENTORS ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of a four-year course preferably Mass Comm; with relevant work experience in similar capacity; excellent in oral and written communication skills and must be good in Public Speaking; computer literate; must be flexible, can handle pressure and willing to be assigned to do field works.

❖ FIELD AUDITORS ❖

M/F, not more than 40 y/o; graduate of BS in Accountancy and must be a CPA; with at least 2 years relevant work experience.

❖ PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEV'T OFFICERS ❖

M/F, 25-35 y/o; single. A graduate of Business Management or BS Economics course. Must have at least 5 years work experience in planning and research. Must have adept knowledge in research analysis. Can work long hours and can work in a deadline-oriented company.

❖ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o; single. A graduate of four-year course with at least 2-3 years work experience; organized, assertive, and quick-minded; can deal with deadline-oriented environment. Highly computer literate with good typing skills.

❖ ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT / BOOKKEEPER / ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK / ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CLERK / CREDIT & COLLECTION CLERK ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o; single. A graduate of BS in Accountancy with at least 2-3 years work experience, highly computer literate and can deal with deadline-oriented environment. Can work under pressure and willing to work overtime.

❖ PAYROLL MASTER ❖

Female, 25-30 y/o; single. A graduate of BS in Accountancy with at least 2-3 years work experience, highly computer literate and can deal with deadline oriented company. Knowledgeable in SSS, PAG-IBIG, and BIR Matters, undertakes payroll preparation.

❖ MARKETING ASSISTANT ❖

M/F, 21-35 y/o; graduate of Business Management, Marketing, Advertising or Mass Comm; proficient in oral and written communications; with relevant work experience.

❖ EDITOR / ASST. EDITOR / EDITORIAL STAFF / COPYWRITER ❖

M/F, not over 35 y/o; holder of Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Mass Comm or English Comm Arts; preferably with background in Business Administration Management; computer literate; creative, has keen eyes for details and must have relevant working experience in publication.

❖ GRAPHIC ARTIST ❖

M/F, 21-30 y/o; preferably single; graduate of BS Fine Arts, Graphic Design or equivalent course; proficient with Desktop Publishing Software (Photoshop, Illustrator, CorelDraw, PageMaker, Freehand, etc.); creative, has keen eyes for details and must have relevant working experience in publication.

❖ SYSTEMS INTEGRATION ASSISTANTS ❖

Female, preferably single a graduate of four-year course, preferably Mass Comm or Business Administration. With at least (4) years work experience and adept in office procedures, proficient in Windows/Microsoft operation and can stand pressure and can work long hours.

❖ PROGRAMMERS/SYSTEMS ANALYST ❖

Male, not more than 27 y/o; must be a graduate of Comp. Scie./Com. Eng or ECE; with at least 3-yrs. relevant work experience in the following applications; SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, knowledge in Database Administration & Computer programming an advantage, Windows Operating System (1998 NT / 2000 Professional). Proven ability to work with a team/long hours and can work under pressure.

❖ WEB DEVELOPERS ❖

Male, not more than 27 y/o, must be a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Comp. Scie. / Comp. Eng'g. With 2-3 years in-depth experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, IIS, VB Script: Access, SQL Server, Visual Interdev/Ultradev. Strong knowledge in HTML and JAVA Script Hardcoding as well as Cross-browser Development. Proven ability to work with a team/ long hours and can work under pressure.

❖ ENCODERS ❖

Graduate of any 4-year course, with background in Accounting. With typing speed of 45-50 wpm. Can work with minimum supervision. Must be willing to work overtime.

Apply in person with application letter, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures, 2 pcs. 1x1 pictures and other necessary employment credentials.

Email Address: **hrd@rise-ecommerce.com**

Wanted Network Engineers

Japanese software company is hiring

Qualifications:

1. Graduate of BS Computer Science or Computer Engineering with experience in the following skills:
   - Network Management System (NMS)
   - Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM)
   - Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)
   - Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)
   - Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)
   - Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM)
   - Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)
2. Male or Female
3. Knowledge of the Japanese language is an advantage

Bring resumé* with recent 2x2 picture*, copy of Transcript of Records* and other supporting papers.

Note: Application without any of the above requirements shall be void.

System for Information Tech. Inc. (SFIT)
Unit 701 Tektite Tower PSE Center
7th Floor, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. No. 633-83-78

Monday Times

CORRESPONDENTS

Monday Times, a weekly regional tabloid in Southern Tagalog is looking for qualified people as correspondents for Palawan, Masbate, Mindoros, Romblon, Marinduque, Batangas, Laguna and Cavite. We prefer applicants who are active in the media industry but would also welcome other applicants competent for the job.

Send your complete resumé to:
Monday Times
Andal Compound, Concepcion 1
Sariaya, Quezon

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE PREMIER TERTIARY REFERRAL CENTER IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Representatives from King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will be holding interviews during the week commencing 12 November 2001.

STAFF NURSES

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Fresh graduates should have BSN with a pass mark of 80% or above
$US 1,000 BONUS PAYABLE IF YOU TRAVEL BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2001
(Subject to interview and passing pharmacology, knowledge and English test)

The following staff are also required:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

REQUIREMENTS: High School Required; Must have an extensive knowledge of medical terminology; Must have a typing speed of 65 words per minute through a medical terminology typing test. Three years of medical transcription required.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

REQUIREMENTS: At least two (2) years experience.

PROSTHETIST TECHNICIAN

REQUIREMENTS: One year of practical and theoretical training in Orthosis after High School. Appropriate certification. Two (2) years of related experience.

TELEPHONE TECHNICIAN

REQUIREMENTS: High School education required. At least 2 years related experience. Driver's license.

WAITER

REQUIREMENTS: High School Education required. Formal Hotel and Restaurant education required. Two (2) years experience as a waiter in a hotel, restaurant, private dining club or catering service required. Must be able to read, write and speak English.

Candidates should personally submit a detailed resumé with job and unit description, together with certificates of employment, two reference letters (one must be from current nurse / specialty manager), board rating / certificate / PRC card, nursing / specialty certificate, if any. New nursing graduates should present a reference from clinical instructor or faculty), original current nursing / specialty license, board certificate / board rating, original passport and a passport photograph between 7 AM - 4 PM for the issuance of KFSH Application Form / Medical Questionnaire and Interview of POEA Officer to the:

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
GOVERNMENT PLACEMENT BRANCH (WINDOW R)
Ground Floor, Left Wing Lobby
EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City and or at
POEA REGIONAL OFFICES

Deadline for Submission: **30 October 2001**
"Mag-ingat Sa Mga Illegal Recruiters"

NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED
BRING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

SERAPH RESORT

BORACAY ISLAND
MALAY, AKLAN

A soon to rise Resort in the Island is immediately in need of the following personnel:

OPERATION MANAGER
- Male
- 5 years experience in a Hotel/Resort
- 30 years old and above
- Computer literate
- Good in oral/written communication
- Preferably could speak Korean dialect

HOUSEKEEPING
- Male/Female
- 2 years experience in a Hotel/Resort
- 25 years old and above
- Computer literate
- Good in oral/written communication

FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER
- Male/Female
- 2 years experience in a Hotel/Resort
- 25 years old and above
- Computer literate
- Good in oral/written communication

ROOM DIVISION MANAGER
- Male/Female
- 2 years experience in a Hotel/Resort
- 25 years old and above
- With knowledge in Front Office, Booking, Marketing and Reservation
- Computer literate

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- Male/Female
- 2 years experience in a Hotel/Resort
- 25 years old and above
- CPA
- Computer literate

MAINTENANCE MANAGER
- Male
- 2 years experience
- 25 years old and above
- With knowledge in Gen. Set
- Electrical Engineer

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
- Male/Female
- With background in Purchasing, Cost Control, Storeroom
- Incharge in monthly inventory
- 2 years experience
- 25 years old and above

Send your resumé to: seraph@boracay.i-next.net
Contact Person : MR. MAX LEE
Tel. No. (036) 288-6633
288-6663
Cell No. 0919-2772146

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Dagupan City
Pangasinan

NURSES

APEX NURSING REVIEW CENTER
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If you have CGFNS, TOEFL and TSE certificates, contact our office for immediate consideration.

ANRC (Apex Nursing Review Center)
86 Scout Ojeda St., Roxas District, Quezon City
Tel #: 416-1993 or 372-0008
Cell #: 0917-4928478
E-mail: hmariflor@hotmail.com

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Marcos and Sumulong Highway, Rizal

Is in need of the following personnel for School Year 2002-2003

1. Grade School and High School faculty in all subject areas (preferably Board passers)
2. Guidance Counselor

Please bring your resumé and transcript of records when applying.

Please contact:

Dr. Cellie S.L. Santos
Principal
Grade School - 6811718 / 6787438
High School - 6608105 / 6608107

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CGFNS / NCLEX / TSE

Intensive review classes conducted by US - based reviewers on October 29, 30 & 31, 2001, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at SMT Room, College Department, Miriam College, Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

For reservations, please call: Maan - 942-0076; Angie - 820-3627/913-4988; Lina - 0917-4926782.

San Roque Power Corporation

San Roque Power Corporation is seeking the contractual services of qualified operating and maintenance personnel throughout 2002 to assist in the startup and testing of the San Roque Multipurpose Project.

Qualified residents of the affected municipalities and provinces will receive priority in hiring. Upon completion of startup and testing in late December 2002, SRPC will operate and maintain the SRMP for a period of 25 years. Contract startup and test personnel who perform well will be offered long-term positions with SRPC.

The SRMP will produce 345 MW of peaking power, irrigate up to 87,000 hectares of prime farmlands, enhance downstream water quality and greatly reduce flooding in Pangasinan. Its primary feature is a 200-m-high, 1.2-km-long dam spanning the municipalities of San Manuel and San Nicolas, Pangasinan, nearly 200 km north of Metro Manila.

The SRMP dam impounds a reservoir extending into the municipality of Itogon, Benguet and is protected by a gated spillway. Wet season flows are stored for later release via water turbines to generate power and irrigate crops.

SRPC is seeking applicants for the following positions:

OPERATORS (4)
SENIOR OPERATORS (4)
OPERATIONS MANAGER

MAINTENANCE MANAGER
PLANT ENGINEER
SITE ADMINISTRATOR

They are full-time salaried positions based on 40 hours per week, however, the SRMP will operate seven days per week, 24 hours per day. Hence, extended work hours and varied shifts, including weekend and holiday work and "On-call" status, will be required of personnel. Applicants must maintain a Philippine driver's license.

Applicants must be physically fit individuals who are able to work on their feet for extended periods, climb stairs and ladders, work in confined spaces and lift heavy weights. Protective equipment must be worn while working in the Plant. Work with and around chemicals or hazardous materials occasionally will be necessary.

Excellent oral and written communication skills in English are mandatory, as well as good computer skills, including e-mail communications, spreadsheets, word processing, Auto-cad, etc.

OPERATORS (4)

Assure the safe and efficient operation of the hydroelectric generating plant while developing a thorough understanding of dispatch, contractual and operational requirements.

Support the Senior Operators in operating all plant features including turbine-generator units, intake, outlet and spillway gates, valves, and associated mechanical, electrical and computer control systems. Trend the performance of units.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ High School diploma or higher degree
- ✓ Minimum of 10 years of generally applicable experience, including 5 years full-time experience in the hydroelectric industry
- ✓ Knowledge of river basin and reservoir operations
- ✓ Knowledge of hydroelectric generating plant equipment and systems
- ✓ Advanced skills in understanding O&M manuals, engineering reports and drawings
- ✓ General knowledge of environmental/regulatory requirements and government standards

SENIOR OPERATORS (4)

Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the hydroelectric generating plant and based on a through understanding of dispatch, contractual and operational requirements.

Responsible for operating all plant features including generating units, intake, outlet and spillway gates, valves, and mechanical, electrical computer control systems. Trend the performance of units.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ All of the qualifications listed above for Operators, plus the following additional qualifications:
- ✓ Licensed Professional Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- ✓ Minimum of ten (10) years full-time experience in the hydroelectric industry of which five (5) years have been as a plant operator

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Reports to the Plant Manager. A management position requiring the abilities to supervise and train a staff of 15 or more senior operators, operators and junior operators/trainees in operating the SRMP in compliance with dispatch, contractual and operational requirements and internationally accepted practices.

Develop and implement short/long range operational plans/procedures. Establish and implement generation and availability criteria. Prepare annual/multi-year budgets. Prepare reports and make presentations. Responsible for the operation of all SRMP features, including generating units, gates, valves, and mechanical, electrical and computer control systems.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ All of the qualifications listed above for Senior Operators, plus the following additional qualifications:
- ✓ Minimum of fifteen (15) years full-time experience in the hydroelectric industry; of which five (5) years experience is in related management/supervisory activities of hydroelectric plants
- ✓ Detailed knowledge of river basin and reservoir operations
- ✓ In depth operational knowledge of hydroelectric plant equipment and systems
- ✓ Understanding of financial planning and budgeting

MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Reports to the Plant Manager. A management position requiring the abilities to supervise and train a staff of 15 or more skilled craftsmen, technicians and laborers, plan maintenance, outage and overhaul activities, write procedures, manage inventory, prepare annual/multi-year budgets, prepare reports and make presentations.

Responsible for the maintenance of all SRMP features including buildings, grounds, civil structures, communications, and mechanical, electrical and computer control systems. Trend the performance of power plant systems.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ Licensed Professional Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- ✓ Minimum of fifteen (15) years full-time experience in the hydroelectric industry; of which five (5) years experience are in related management/supervisory activities of hydroelectric plants
- ✓ Detailed knowledge of hydroelectric generating plant equipment and system maintenance
- ✓ Understanding of root cause failure analysis
- ✓ Understanding of financial planning and budgets
- ✓ General knowledge of environmental/regulatory requirements and government standards

PLANT ENGINEER

Reports to the Plant Manager. Responsible for engineering/technical support of the SRMP staff for its efficient and economic operation and maintenance. Prepares design drawings and engineering calculations and reports. Prepares and administers technical work scopes.

Supervise an engineering staff responsible for developing and formulating short and long range enhancement plans for Plant capital improvements. Review and interpretation of Plant performance, budgets and schedules.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ Licensed Professional Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- ✓ Minimum of fifteen (15) years of experience of which ten (10) years have been full time in hydroelectric power plant operations, maintenance, design or construction; and five (5) years experience in related engineering management/supervisory activities of hydro power plants
- ✓ Detailed knowledge of dams and large civil structures, hydroelectric power generating equipment and systems, operations, maintenance
- ✓ Advanced skills for the understanding and interpretation of O&M manuals, engineering reports and drawings
- ✓ Understanding of financial planning and management
- ✓ Familiarity with power plant performance tracking and root cause failure analysis
- ✓ General knowledge of environmental/regulatory requirements and government standards

SITE ADMINISTRATOR

Reports to the Plant Manager. A management position requiring the abilities to provide administrative support services to the operations and maintenance staff, develop an understanding of hydroelectric plant operations, and interact with outside agencies and vendors

Responsible for maintaining files and records and preparing financial, personnel and safety reports. Supervise a staff of approximately five (5) persons consisting of support staff. Support public and community relations activities.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ Bachelors degree with business major; related advanced degrees may be credited as experience.
- ✓ Minimum of fifteen years of experience with at least five years full-time experience in power plant administration including personnel issues.
- ✓ Understanding of contract administration, accounting, personnel management, safety programs, filing, and record keeping
- ✓ General knowledge of labor/regulatory requirements and government standards.

Applicants should send a cover letter and comprehensive resume to:
San Roque Power Corporation, P.O. Box SRMP, San Manuel 2438, Pangasinan
Please indicate the position for which you are applying.
Only properly mailed applications will be considered

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.
Block F-1 Subic Techno Park
Along Argonaut Hi-way, Baton Area,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
is in need of

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

for

PRODUCTION (1): Has 5 years extensive work experience in the production of Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) including but not limited to the assembly of P-board, UPS wire processing, etc. Exposure on maintenance of related equipment is a must. Similarly, should have experience in Production Control Plan based on accepting order and engineering information (Order and Drawing), Progress Control and Adjustment of Delivery Date, Inventory Control for Product, and Forwarding Work (Product Flow Control). Should be knowledgeable on IZUMI production control software.

QUALITY ASSURANCE (1): Has at least 5 years extensive exposure/technical knowledge in the Quality Assurance for UPS products, process control, evaluation of product, dealing with customer claims for damage and purchase and quality control of materials. Must have hands-on experience on various related QA device/ equipment.

PURCHASING (1): Has at least 5 years extensive work experience in purchasing, warehousing, inventory and quality control of incoming materials in an electronics manufacturing company, preferably in UPS production.

PREFERABLY ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE AND SPEAK NIHONGO.

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2x2 recent picture and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center
Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

For Immediate Hiring!!!

1. Project Engineer

Qualifications:
- Male, Licensed Civil Engineer
- With experience in the construction of Telecommunication Towers
- Highly motivated and hardworking
- Willing to be assigned in the province

Interested applicant may apply at:

Suite 5F, Goldrich Mansion
4700 Cuenco St., cor. South Super Highway
Makati City @ Tel. No. 886-0084
Look for: Mr. Archie Reyes

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We need you urgently to fill up the following positions:

COPY EDITORS

- have solid hands-on experience in editing stories and lay-outing pages • must possess effective people skills and computer skills, handling both with impeccable coordination.

REPORTERS

- should have experience in covering and reporting news events • dynamic, resourceful, and self-driven • should have excellent communication and interpersonal skills • must be deft in conducting research and interviews • should be flexible and able to think "out of the box."

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- should have a notable experience in establishing and maintaining relationship with clients and ad agencies • must be capable in soliciting ad placements • must have excellent organizational and interpersonal communication skills • able to conduct business presentation to corporate clients.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- graduate of a 4-year college course or a 2-year vocational course for Receptionist Switchboard Telephone Operator (RSTO) or General Radio Communication Operator (GRCO) • with a pleasant voice • trustworthy and tactful • reliable and dependable • preferably with experience in PABX switchboard operation.

If you have the above competencies, please e-mail your application letter, picture and comprehensive resumé to **stan@inquirer.com.ph.** Kindly indicate the position you are applying for on the subject of your e-mail.

WINTERSNOW MKTG. CORP.

A dealership of car accessories in Metro Manila and Visayas Region.

Accountant
- M/F at least 25 years old
- CPA with or without experience

Operations Officer
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U.S. EMBASSY
INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU
PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION

PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used UHF antenna dish and towers, GE & Collins short wave transmitter equipment, Fruehauf transportable maintenance unit and control vans, assorted wires, assorted GE & Collins spare parts, switching system and miscellaneous scrap materials.

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: October 23-24, 2001; 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at IBB/PTS (formerly Voice of America), Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union. Submission of bids and 20% bond in cash or Manager's check will be on **October 25, 2001** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Tel#: (045) 982-0254 or 0255
POC: Belle Concepcion or
(072) 888-2747 or 2773
POC: Benjie Offiada

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 21, 2001)

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ARMED FORCES AND POLICE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
INVITATION TO BID

AFPSLAI invites interested buyers to bid for the following properties on cash basis:

PROPERTY LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Bo. West Talaongan Cavinti, Laguna	826 sqm Residential Lot		
Bo. Pinaglabanan, Pila, Laguna	859 sqm Residential Lot w/ Improvement	Bgy. Marama, Ilagan, Isabela	600 sqm Residential Lot 1,385 Agricultural Lot
Bgy. Malabanan, Candelaria, Quezon	400 sqm Residential Lot w/ Improvement	Taguig, Metro Manila	148 sqm Residential Lot w/ Improvement
San Francisco, Zaragosa, N.E.	2,000 sqm Residential Lot	Sitio Halang, San Roque, Antipolo City	1,500 sqm Residential Lot
Bo. Malabago, Lamut, Ifugao	19,964 sqm Residential Lot	Sta. Lucia, Cainta, Rizal	273 sqm Residential Lot

Bid forms may be secured from the Asset Management Office, AFPSLAI, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City or from any AFPSLAI Branch. Deadline for the Submission of Bids is on **October 29, 2001.** For inquiries, please call 9116156, 9113734 or 9112032-33 loc. 2229.

Asset Management Office

(PDI -- October 14 & 21, 2001)

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Adamson & Adamson, Inc. recently announced the promotion of Mr. Hilarion "Larry" A. Pablo to National Sales Manager.

Mr. Pablo joined the company in May 16, 2001 as Field Sales & Operations Manager after stints in various Food and Beverage companies.

Adamson & Adamson, Inc. is the country's leading manufacturer and distributor of personal hygiene products such as absorbent cotton.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
(JFMH-PBEC)

October 19, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Dr. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (JFMH-PBEC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB) with a minimum license category of "D/registration "SMALL B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the **EXPANSION OF HOSPITAL PHARMACY PROJECT, DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**, located at Lope de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Pre-C Forms shall be made available to contractors classified above upon submission of Letter of Intent, latest PCAB license from October 24-30, 2001 at the Administrative Office, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Lope de Vega St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Bring original copies of PCAB license for authentication.

Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification statements is on November 5-7, 2001. JFMH-PBEC shall post the list of pre-qualified and pre-disqualified contractors-applicants on November 9, 2001 at JFMH-PBEC's Bulletin Board.

Dates for the issuance of Bid/tender documents to pre-qualified contractors, pre-bid and public bidding are as follows:

1. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents — **November 12-13, 2001**
2. Pre-Bid Conference — **November 20, 2001 2:00 p.m., Reception Hall**
3. Public Bidding — **November 27, 2001 1:00 p.m., Reception Hall**

Complete set of bid/tender documents may be purchased by interested pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos Only (3,000.00)

JFMH-PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposals as evaluated by the JFMH-PBEC are most advantageous to the government. JFMH-PBEC will indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIETA R. SIONGCO, M.D.**
Chief, Medical Professional Staff II
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Oct. 20, 21 & 22, 2001)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

ADHOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS
INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if later found eligible/qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	:	Landscaping Works along PICC Perimeter Fence
Scope of Work	:	Work includes furnishing of materials, labor, plant, tools, equipment and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed Landscaping Works for the PICC Complex, all in accordance with the specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location	:	PICC Complex, Pasay City
Approved Budget	:	Pesos One Million Six Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty (P 1,658,520.00)
Source of Funding	:	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)		
PCAB License Classification	:	IAC Category Small (Park, Playground and Recreational Work)
Contractor's Construction Experience in Similar Project	:	Have completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) landscaping projects each costing at least two (2) Million Pesos preferably on landscape construction and/or development for commercial and institutional buildings requiring high end finishes and excellent workmanship of financial institutions, hotels and commercial establishment and other of similar or greater complexity
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't.	:	Pesos One Hundred Seventy Thousand (P 170,000.00)
Prequalification/Eligibility Statement Forms		
Cost of Forms	:	Two Hundred Pesos per set (P 200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance	:	Oct. 18 to 21, 2001 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility/Statement Documents	:	AHCPP Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 loc 3143) 2nd Floor-Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (Former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission	:	October 29, 2001 4:00 pm
Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility		
Date and Time of Issuance	:	November 13, 2001/9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance	:	AHCPP Secretariat Rm 204
Bid/Tender Documents	:	Shall be issued only to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance	:	Five Thousand Pesos per set (P5,000.00/set) AHCPP Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance	:	November 13 to 14, 2001/9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference		
Date and Time	:	November 19, 2001 9:30 am
Venue	:	BMD Conference Room/2nd Floor-Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids		
Deadline/Venue of Submission	:	November 28, 2001/9:00 am to 10:00 am/AHCPP Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibility.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate or indemnify any prospective bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that award will be made.

(Sgd.) Vicente L. Valdepeñas, Jr.
Chairman

(Sgd.) Juan Quintos, Jr.
Co-Chairman

Note:
Information on the date, time and venue of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and deadline of submission/opening of bids are not indicated in the published/advertised invitation for prequalification. These information shall be announced in the notice of eligibility.

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 21, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
MUNICIPALITY OF NAGUILIAN

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (AROP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to prequalify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Naguilian, La Union as implementing partner of the DAR for AROP, intends to prequalify contractors and if prequalified to bid for the construction and completion of CONSTRUCTION OF ONE LANE RCDG BRIDGE at Mamat-ing Bur, Naguilian, La Union.
3. The works proposed to be undertaken shall include all labor, tools, materials and equipment necessary to complete the projects in accordance with the approved plans and specification.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT
A)	500 METERS BRIDGES APPROACH		
PART A:	FACILITIES FOR THE ENGINEERS	L.S.	L.S.
100	CLEARING & GRUBBING	1194	SQ.M.
102(1)	COMMON EXCAVATION	402	CU.M.
102(2)	SURPLUS COMMON EXCAVATION	282	CU.M.
104	EMBANKMENT	270	CU.M.
200	AGG. SUB-BASE COURSE	203	CU.M.
202	AGG. CRUSHED BASE COURSE	372	CU.M.
303	ASPHALT JOINT SEALING	1125	LNM
311	PORTLAND CEM. CONC. PAVEMENT	388.08	CU.M.
500	REINFORCE CONC. PIPE (900 MM)	14	LN.M.
504	GROUTED RIP-RAP	611.11	CU.M.
PART B: BRIDGE	FACILITIES FOR THE ENGINEERS	L.S.	L.S.
100	CLEARING & GRUBBING	1110	SQ.M.
103	STRUCTURE & EXCAVATION	402	CU.M.
400-15	TEST PILES	1	PC
400-16	CONCRETE PILING	2124	LN.M.
404	REINFORCING STEEL	171181	KGS
405-1	STRUCTURAL CONC. CLASS "A"	1604.2	CU.M.
406	STRUCTURAL STEEL	40	CU.M.
401	RAILINGS	10.75	CU.M.
411	PAINTING	800	SQ.M.
505	STONE MASONRY	397.50	CU.M.

Minimum Equipments Required

1	unit	Bulldozer	- LGU
1	unit	Backhoe	- Owned
1	unit	Road Grader	- Owned/leased
1	unit	Road Roller	- Owned/leased
1	unit	PayLoader	- Owned/leased/LGU
6	units	Dump Truck	- Owned
1	unit	Water Truck	- Owned
3	units	Concrete Mixer (one bagger)	- Owned

4. Prequalification forms (Pre-Q) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the Municipal Office of Mayor, and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P10,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
5. Submission of application for prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC-AROP, Municipality of Naguilian, La Union not later than October 25, 2001
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on November 15, 2001. No bids will be accepted later than 10:00 o'clock a.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
7. The PBAC-AROP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CEFERINO V. ARGUEZA**
Acting Mayor
Acting Chairman, PBAC-AROP

(PDI - Oct. 18, 20 & 21, 2001)

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him,
may he rest in peace."

RAMON GUECO VILLAREAL

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 18, 2001
at the age of 49.

His loving wife **Corazon Mateo Villareal**, children **Clarice** and **Andrew**; his loving parents **Carlota Gueco Villareal, Jose "Chief" Villareal** (†); his brother **Filomino Villareal**; other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz Chapel A-2, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City on Tuesday, October 23, 2001 after the 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass.

On the 10th year of the homecoming to the Lord
of
Nieves Valera Cubarrubia

of Davao City

July 10, 1928 - October 21, 1991

We, husband - **Joe**; children: **Tess & Tony Villa, Maling & Philip Nidea, Millet & Raymund Bernardez, Gee-Aye & Joey Monje, Joey, Jojo & Nancy, Angel, Pippi & Heidi**; grandchildren: **Tonton, Thea, Titat, Nico, Rhaemer, Andy, Jen, Jaj, Kayre, Tricia, Joshua & Jana**; brothers and sisters, request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses to be offered at:

St. Jude Parish, Davao City
Sta. Ana Parish, Davao City
Shrine of the Infant Jesus, Davao City
San Simon Church, Bronx, New York, USA
Our Lady of Fatima, Trinidad and Tobago
St. Peter's Church, New Jersey, USA
St. Genevive Church, Panorama City, L.A., USA
And
Villa Residence, Durham, North Carolina, USA
(to be officiated by Fr. Sonny Ramirez, O.P.)

Mommy, your legacy of LOVE lives on

PASTORA CANDARI GABOR

of Pandan, Antique and Pilar Village, Las Piñas City

Has peacefully joined her Creator on October 19, 2001 at the age of 79.

Her bereaved children **Ted** and **Baby, Rene** and **Hilda, Edgar** and **Mercedes, Manuel** and **Cathy, Arlene, Bimboy** (†) and **Della, Ma. Cristina** (†), **Marlon**; sister-in-law **Patria Candari**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Andrew, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 27, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Arturo Trabanco Arevalo

1924-2001

Died peacefully surrounded by his family at home in San Francisco, California on October 19, 2001.

Beloved husband of **Nita V. Concepcion**. Deeply cherished father of **Alell (Joe Boerio), Arturo, Beatrix (Jeff Juhrstorfer), Antonio (Cristie), Armand (Lisa), Andrei (Diana)** and **Alvin**. Much loved grandfather of **Brex** and **Llyonz, Jerome, Ana, Julia, Francesca**, and **Jeremy**.

Visitation will be from 4-9 p.m. starting on Sunday, October 21 at Duggan's Serra Mortuary, Westlake Avenue, Daly City. Vigil Rosary will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 22. Funeral Mass will be at 12 noon on Tuesday, October 23 at St. Gabriel's Church, 40th Avenue, SF. Interment will follow at Skylawn Memorial Park.

ESMERALDA SAN JUAN ENCARNACION

November 26, 1914 - October 19, 2001

Survived by her husband **Dr. Geronimo C. Encarnacion**; children **Tori & Ramon Bueno, Bubut & Eddie Estella, Fe & Vic Sarangay, Sonia & Junior Tecson, Glecy & Bert Navarro, Estela & Epi Garcia, Jean & Boy de Castro**; 20 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Makati City.

Interment will be at Manila South Cemetery after the Holy Mass at St. Andrew Parish Church, N. Garcia Street, Bel-Air Village. (Date to be announced later).

"You are gone but for us you never left.
God has you in his keeping.
We have you in our hearts."

So Dearly Remembered
On the Seventh Death Anniversary of

ERNESTO RODIL REGIO

of Torrijos, Marinduque and Quezon City

Who joined his Creator on October 22, 1994
Masses will be offered tomorrow, October 22, 2001 at the following churches:

Holy Cross Parish, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque ..... 5:15 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, ... 5:30 a.m.
Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City
St. Ignacio Parish, Torrijos, Marinduque ..... 6:00 a.m.
Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Meycauayan, Bulacan ..... 6:30 a.m.
San Diego De Alcala Parish, Polo, Valenzuela City ..... 6:30 a.m.
St. Jude, San Miguel, Manila ..... 6:30 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City ..... 7:00 a.m.
San Sebastian Parish, Plaza Del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila ..... 6:00 p.m.

The Family requests the pious reader and those whose lives he touched to say a prayer for his eternal rest.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..."
1 Corinthians 15:22

AURORA ALCOS POLICARPIO

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on October 19, 2001 at the age of 73.

Her loving family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Anita C. Cabrera Vda. De Jhocson

Has joined her husband "Danding" and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on October 19, 2001 at the age of 86.

Her loving children **Ramon** (†) and **Lydia**; **Antonio** and **Merly**; **Jaime** and **Nora & Marlean** and **Boy**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request for prayers for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, 143-G, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at Familia Jhocson Mausoleum, Manila North Cemetery, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

"Papa, your presence will be deeply missed,
but the memories of your love and goodness will live with us
and remain in our hearts forever..."

Felizardo Buenaflor Viado

(Son of Luis Almeda Viado and Rosalia Jocson Buenaflor)

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 16, 2001 at the age of 89.

His loving wife **Doroteo Conejos Banda**; children **Aurora, Liwanag, Sinagtala, Diwata, Dalisay, Buyani, Kalayaan**; sons-in-law **Gregorio Lizada, Virgilio Allado, Manuel Acedillo, David East**; daughters-in-law **Lina Cabrera, Erlinda Yquin**; grandchildren **Tony** and **Daisy Lizada, Melchor, Aileen** and **Jerry, Rafael** and **Alell Lizada, Vanessa, Vincent** and **V.J. Allado, Michael Acedillo, Samantha East, Joseph, Grace** and **Ana Viado, Kith** and **Kudos Viado**; great grandchildren **Kaila, Arianna** and **Thea Lizada, John-John** and **Jayson Solis**; brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C, Loyola Memorial Chapels, EDSA, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 27, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass to be held at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

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ERRATUM

In the obituary ad of **FRANCISCO FERMIN CRUZ** published in this paper on October 20, 2001, **"Preface, Mass for the Death"** should be **"Preface, Mass for the Dead."**

Our apologies.

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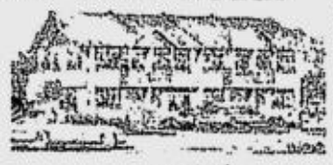

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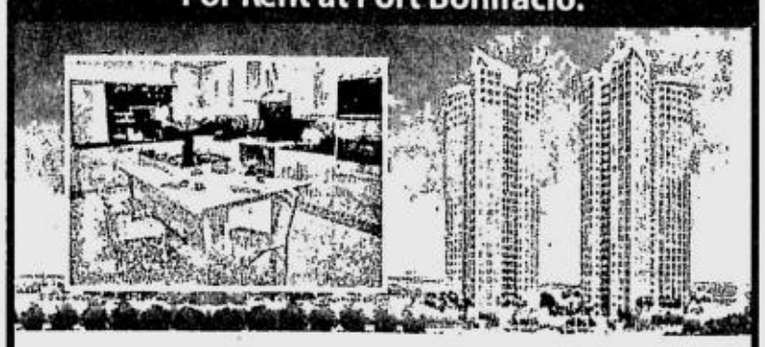

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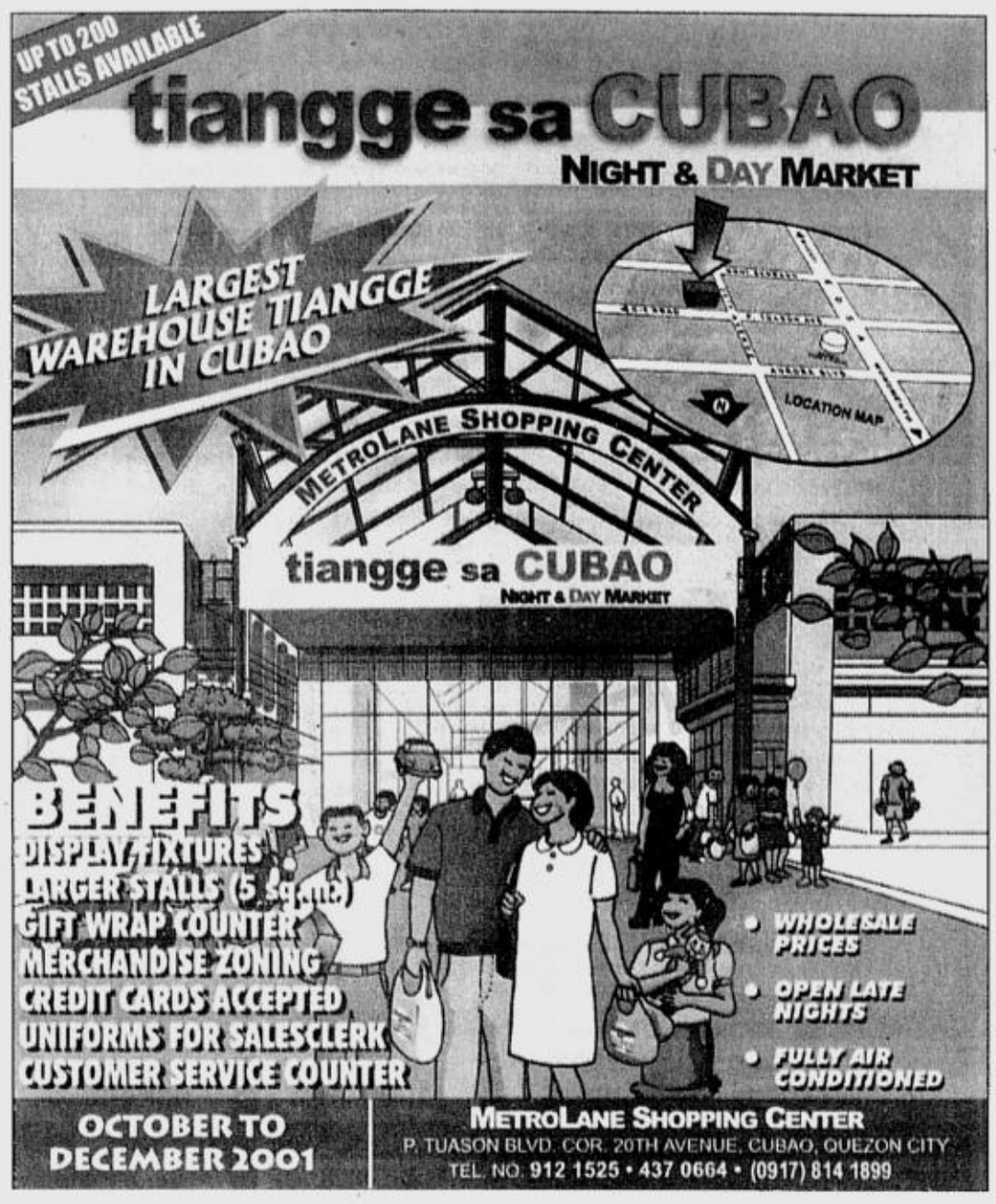

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES
Manila

DOH COMMITTEE OF EXAMINERS FOR MASSEURS

SCHEDULE OF LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR MASSEURS

Deadline of Submission of Application	**November 27, 2001**
Theoretical and Oral/Practical Examination	**December 11-14, 2001**
Place of Examination	**San Lazaro Hospital Amphitheater Sta. Cruz, Manila**

HERMINIO G. DIONCO CESO IV
Committee Chairman

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Identification Certificate of Messrs. GUILLERMO E. CUA and OSCAR E. CUA, both residents of Candelaria, Zambales, issued by the Bureau of Immigration, Manila have been lost.
(PDI-Oct. 21 & 28, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Serenity Memorial Park Inc.
Certificate of Ownership No. 3677, Issued on August 2, 1994, In favor of Vicente Almonte Sr. Addressed at #20 M. Roxas St., T.S. Cruz Subd., Q.C. was reported loss on March 10, 1999 by the holder.
(PDI - Oct. 21, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
THIS is to inform the public that the Official Receipt#1704 of CTLink Systems with address at 2/F Vernida 1 Bldg. 120 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village Makati City was lost.
The public is hereby warned that any transaction covered by this OR is no longer valid.
(PDI-October 21, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public, **MR. RUBEN MONTECILLO** is no longer connected with GOLDEN DRAGON APPAREL, INC. effective September 22, 2001. Any transaction or business entered thru this person after the above mentioned date will not be honored by the management of Golden Dragon Apparel Inc.
(PDI -- Oct. 21, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Tondo Medical Center invites local tender for furnishing and delivering foodstuffs beginning January-June, 2002.

Interested parties who can provide the above-mentioned services may submit their pre-qualification documents on **October 22-23, 2001** at the Dietary Service. Qualified bidders may obtain bid documents from the Dietary Department, Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila on **October 29-31, 2001**. Sealed bids shall be submitted not later than **November 9, 2001**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Laboratory Conference Room, Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila at which time, date and place sealed bids shall be publicly opened.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **November 5, 2001**, Monday at 2:00 p.m. and deliberation will be held on **November 19, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at the Laboratory Conference Room, Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

Tondo Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, to waive any informality in the bids received or to accept such bids as may be advantageous and responsive to the needs of this hospital.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, M.D.**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 21, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS SERVICE
SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. 711-6831

1 October 2001

INVITATION FOR BIDS
(IFB NO. 2001-11-13 [5])

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the Supply and Delivery of Computers and its Peripherals chargeable against the funds of the different services/ programs.

Bidding documents can be secured from the Procurement and Logistics Service, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) only.*

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2.	4	Sets	ATX Motherboard PC 133/UDMA 100
3.	4	Pcs.	30 GB Hard Disk (E-IDE) UDMA 66
4.	4	Pcs.	60x CD-ROM Drive (E-IDE)
5.	4	Pcs.	AGP Video Card with 32 MB Memory
6.	4	Pcs.	10/100 MBPS Network Interface Card
7.	66	Sets	Personal Computer AMD/Intel Athlon/Pentium III-1GHz Microprocessor
8.	17	Sets	Laser Jet Printer - Low End with Print Server and 8 - Port Switch
9.	9	Sets	Laser Jet Printer - High End A3 Paper Size (Black)
10.	2	Sets	Computer Notebook Pentium, Intel Pentium III - 650 Mhz
11.	6	Sets	9-Pin Dot Matrix Printer
12.	2	Sets	USB-LPT-PC Card External CD-Rewriter
13.	2	Sets	Flatbed Scanners (Low-End), color and monochrome
14.	4	Sets	24-Port, 10/100M N-Way Mini Switch
15.	3	Sets	12-Port, 10/100M N-Way Mini Switch
16.	1	Unit	5 KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)
17.	1	Set	Slip/Receipt Printer
18.	6	Units	Mouse, Microsoft PS/2
19.	4	Pcs.	LAN Card

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Documents	:	**October 22 to November 12, 2001** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Bid Conference	:	**October 29, 2001**; 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for Submission of Bids	:	**November 13, 2001**; 9:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	:	**November 13, 2001**; 9:01 a.m.

All activities shall be held at the AVR, San Lazaro Hospital Amphitheater, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than *two and a half (2.5%) percent* of the total amount of bid in the form of the following: (a) bank guarantee or bank draft issued by a reputable bank, (b) irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank, (c) cashier's or certified check, (d) manager's check, (e) GSIS Bond, (f) any combination of the above proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security.

For further information, please contact the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila or call 743-8301 locals 3626 and 3627.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the Department of Health's action.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., M.P.H., CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 14 & 21, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ILOILO
Office of the Governor
Iloilo City

October 18, 2001

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of Iloilo hereby invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as **Triple A, LARGE B** for Buildings to apply for qualification/eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the construction of additional works; supply and commissioning of various equipment for the completion of the New Iloilo Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Qualification/Accreditation statements are available for issuance to interested Contractors at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Iloilo National High School, La Paz, Iloilo City starting **November 5, 2001** until **November 6, 2001**, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent addressed to and received by the Office of Governor Niel D. Tupas. Last day for submission of qualification/accreditation documents is **November 15, 2001.**

Plans and bidding documents are available at the Provincial Engineer's Office Multi-Purpose Covered Gym, Magsaysay Village, La Paz, Iloilo City for issuance to pre-qualified Contractors on **December 7, 2001** only upon payment of the amount of **Twenty-five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00)** which is non-refundable.

The BAC shall hold pre-bid conferences on **December 21, 2001**; and **January 8, 2002**, at 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Sealed bids shall be received by the BAC on **January 25, 2002** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City, which will be publicly opened at 2:15 p.m. of the same date.

The Provincial Government of Iloilo reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Iloilo Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) **NIEL D. TUPAS**
Governor

(PDI -- Oct. 21, 26 & 31, 2001)

INQUIRER **RiViA**
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Jelly

Q. Why does jelly set?

A. Jelly is set when it is at room temperature, about 20° C (68°F) or below, but above freezing temperature. The usual gelling agent in jelly is gelatin, which is made from collagen, a fibrous protein found in all connective tissues in the body. When animal skin or bone is boiled in water, the collagen strands separate and react with water to become gelatin. As little as 1 percent dissolved in water will make a gel. Gelatin contains millions of long chains of protein that separate into tiny filaments when they are mixed with warm water. Each filament attracts water molecules to itself along its length, which reduces the number of water molecules free to flow through the mixture. As the water cools, the water-rich filaments begin to bump into one another and intertwine. Eventually, the remaining water becomes confined with in a thicket of protein filaments and the mixture thickens into a gel. Before industrial gelatin was available, cooks had either to make their own gelatin by boiling up bones or to use isinglass, a kind of gelatin obtained from the swim bladders of fish.

Which is Which? Jell / Gel. To *jell* is to become or make into jelly; colloquially, it means to take or give definite form: "The plans didn't *jell*." To *gel* is to form a gel, a jellylike substance (like hair styling gel) formed by the coagulation of a colloidal solution into a solid phase.

Past Forward. This day in 1964: Anthony Villanueva of the Philippines settled for the silver medal after losing on a controversial points-decision to Stanislav Stephaskin of the Soviet Union in the final of boxing's featherweight division at the Tokyo Olympics.

WORD WATCH

Incredulous (in krej'oo luhs) : unwilling or unable to believe; doubting.

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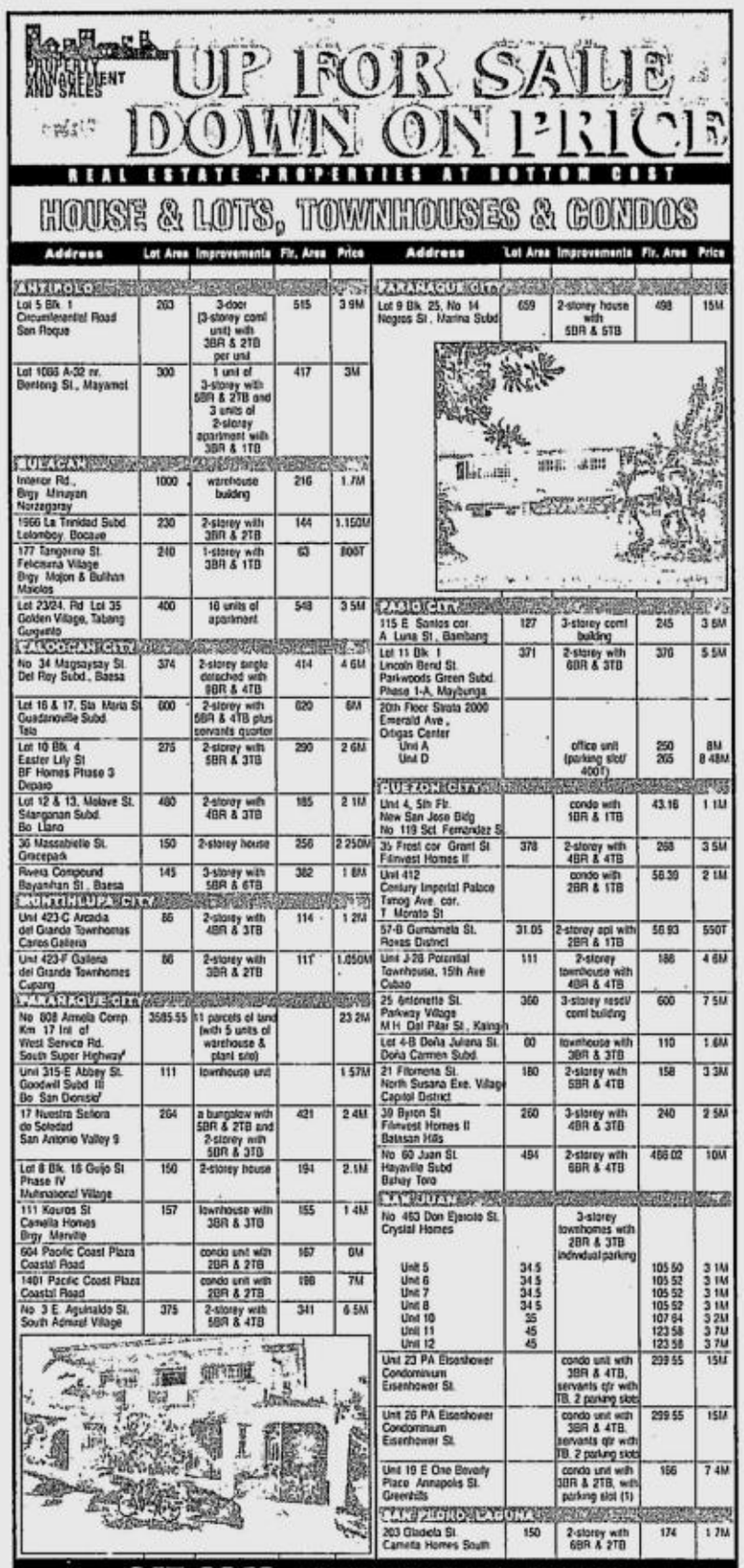
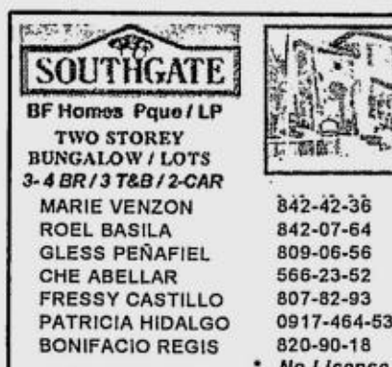


Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
ANTIPOLO				
Lot 5 Blk 1 Circumferential Road San Roque	263	3-door (3-storey comi unit) with 3BR & 2TB per unit	515	3.9M
Lot 1088 A-32 nr. Bontong St., Mayamot	300	1 unit of 3-storey with 5BR & 2TB and 3 units of 2-storey apartment with 3BR & 1TB	417	3M
BULACAN				
Interior Rd., Brgy Minuyan Norzagaray	1000	warehouse building	216	1.7M
1966 La Trinidad Subd Lolomboy Bocaue	230	2-storey with 3BR & 2TB	144	1.150M
177 Tangarine St. Felicisima Village Brgy Mojon & Bulihan Malolos	240	1-storey with 3BR & 1TB	63	800T
Lot 23/24, Rd Lot 35 Golden Village, Tabang Guguinto	400	16 units of apartment	548	3.5M
CALOOCAN City				
No 34 Magsaysay St. Del Rey Subd., Baesa	374	2-storey single detached with 9BR & 4TB	414	4.6M
Lot 16 & 17, Sta Maria St Guadanoville Subd Tala	600	2-storey with 5BR & 4TB plus servants quarter	620	6M
Lot 10 Blk 4 Easter Lily St BF Homes Phase 3 Depaso	275	2-storey with 5BR & 3TB	290	2.6M
Lot 12 & 13, Molave St. Stanganan Subd. Bo Llano	480	2-storey with 4BR & 3TB	185	2.1M
36 Massabielle St. Grocepark	150	2-storey house	256	2.250M
Rivera Compound Bayanihan St. Baesa	145	3-storey with 5BR & 6TB	382	1.8M
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
Unit 423-C Arcadia del Grande Townhomes Carlos Galleria	86	2-storey with 4BR & 3TB	114	1.2M
Unit 423-F Galleria del Grande Townhomes Cupang	86	2-storey with 3BR & 2TB	117	1.050M
PARAÑAQUE City				
No 808 Armela Comp Km 17 Int of West Service Rd. South Super Highway	3585.55	11 parcels of land (with 5 units of warehouse & plant site)		23.2M
Unit 315-E Abbey St. Goodwill Subd III Bo San Dionisio	111	townhouse unit		1.57M
17 Nuestra Señora de Soledad San Antonio Valley 9	264	a bungalow with 5BR & 2TB and 2-storey with 5BR & 3TB	421	2.4M
Lot 8 Blk 16 Gulio St Phase IV Multinational Village	150	2-storey house	194	2.1M
111 Kouros St Camella Homes Brgy Merville	157	townhouse with 3BR & 3TB	155	1.4M
604 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road		condo unit with 2BR & 2TB	167	6M
1401 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road		condo unit with 2BR & 2TB	166	7M
No 3 E. Aguinaldo St. South Admiral Village	375	2-storey with 5BR & 4TB	341	6.5M

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
PANANAGUE City				
Lot 9 Blk 25, No 14 Negros St., Marina Subd	659	2-storey house with 5BR & 5TB	498	15M
PASIG City				
115 E Santos cor. A Luna St., Bambang	127	3-storey comi building	245	3.6M
Lot 11 Blk 1 Lincoln Bend St. Parkwoods Green Subd. Phase 1-A, Maybunga	371	2-storey with 6BR & 3TB	370	5.5M
20th Floor Strata 2000 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Unit A Unit D		office unit (parking slot/ 400T)	250 265	8M 8.48M
QUEZON CITY				
Unit 4, 5th Flr. New San Jose Bldg No 119 Sct. Fernandez St.		condo with 1BR & 1TB	43.16	1.1M
3/r Front cor Grant St Filinvest Homes II	378	2-storey with 4BR & 4TB	268	3.5M
Unit 412 Century Imperial Palace Timog Ave. cor. T Morato St		condo with 2BR & 1TB	58.39	2.1M
57-B Gumamela St. Rowes District	31.05	2-storey apt with 2BR & 1TB	56.93	550T
Unit J-2B Potential Townhouse, 15th Ave Cubao	111	2-storey townhouse with 4BR & 4TB	186	4.6M
25 Antonette St. Parkway Village M H Del Pilar St., Kaingin	360	3-storey resdl/ comi building	600	7.5M
Lot 4-B Doña Juliana St. Doña Carmen Subd.	60	townhouse with 3BR & 3TB	110	1.6M
21 Filomena St. North Susana Exe. Village Capitol District	180	2-storey with 5BR & 4TB	158	3.3M
39 Byron St Filinvest Homes II Batasan Hills	260	3-storey with 4BR & 3TB	240	2.5M
No 60 Juan St. Hayaville Subd Bahay Toro	494	2-storey with 6BR & 4TB	466.02	10M
SAN JUAN				
No 463 Don Ejercito St. Crystal Homes		3-storey townhomes with 2BR & 3TB individual parking		
Unit 5	34.5		105.50	3.1M
Unit 6	34.5		105.52	3.1M
Unit 7	34.5		105.52	3.1M
Unit 8	34.5		105.52	3.1M
Unit 10	35		107.64	3.2M
Unit 11	45		123.58	3.7M
Unit 12	45		123.58	3.7M
Unit 23 PA Eisenhower Condominium Eisenhower St.		condo unit with 3BR & 4TB, servants qtr with TB, 2 parking slots	239.55	15M
Unit 26 PA Eisenhower Condominium Eisenhower St.		condo unit with 3BR & 4TB, servants qtr with TB, 2 parking slots	239.55	15M
Unit 19 E One Beverly Plaza Annapolis St. Greenhills		condo unit with 3BR & 2TB, with parking slot (1)	166	7.4M
SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA				
203 Gladiola St. Camella Homes South	150	2-storey with 6BR & 2TB	174	1.7M

HOUSE & LOT | HOUSE & LOT | HOUSE & LOT



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Des.	Location	Area/sqm	Selling Price
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Comm'l	Evergreen Heights Subd., Gaya-Gaya, San Francisco del Monte, Bulacan	9,733.20	P4,500/sq.m.
Res'l Condo.	Seagull Cond. #49 Gen. Lim St. Heroes Hill, Diliman, Quezon City (2 units)	50 51	1,000,000 1,000,000
Res'l	#7028 Dollar Lane, Villanueva Subd. Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque	120	1,000,000
Res'l	489 National Road Brgy. Anolid, Mangaldan, Pangasinan	292	500,000
Res'l	Graceville Subdivision, Brgy. Mozon SJDM, Bulacan	280	560,000
Res'l	Bo. Banga I, Plaridel, Bulacan	400	700,000
Res'l	Villaluz Subdivision, Sta. Rosa I, Marilao, Bulacan	200	400,000
Res'l	Block 8, Lot 22, Saranay Homes Subd. Brgy. Bagumbong, Caloocan City	300	800,000
Res'l	Lot 13, Blk. 16, Greenbreeze Avenue, Bo. Langkaan, Dasmariñas Cavite City	200	250,000
Ind'l	Phase II Micro St. Sterling Industrial Compound, Meycauayan, Bulacan	1,962	17,500,000
Ind'l	#312 Interior Rivera St. Brgy. Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City	455	2,400,000
Ind'l	Binang 2nd Bocaue, Bulacan	8,025	P26,000,000.00
Agri.	Bo. Mabiga, Hermosa, Bataan	14,997	2,250,000

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2-stry res. w/ store	SJDM Bulacan	463	54 / 23	P1.4M
2-stry res. w/ sep. quarter	Cal. City	676	res = 385 qrtr = 34	17M
2-storey comm'l bldg.	Alangilan, Bat.	431	668	9.4M
Res'l land (dev'd)	Calamba, Laguna	1125	-	5M
1 storey House & Lot	Lipa, Batangas	652 / 104	117	2M
26 Res'l lots (1 lot w/ 2 storey model house)	Una Monte Homes Subd., Angono	100 up	108/unit	1,900/sqm 650K(hse)
2-storey House & Lot	Lipa, Batangas	266	112	1.2M
1 storey House & Lot	Alangilan, Batangas	180	128	1.8M

Interested **buyers/brokers** may contact Ms. Lani Ponciano/Ms. Rose Sagun at **8153396/97** or Ms. Sol de Leon at **8183451.** (Prop. at Tiaong, Quezon & San Rafael, Bulacan also available)

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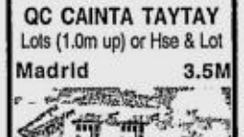

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

ANIMO ATENEO! Original Blue Babble boy Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon

Another thrilla in Manila

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY ERNIE SARMIENTO, ROMY HOMILLADA AND VAL HANDUMON

IT was the biggest event of the UAAP season, the hottest ticket this week. "More valuable than diamonds," one alumnus reportedly said.

As early as 10 days before the game, or the day after Game 2, all tickets had unbelievably been either allocated or sold out. All roads led to Araneta Coliseum that balmy Oct. 16 afternoon as various shades of blues and greens in an assortment of sizes, shapes and ages made their way into the Big Dome to cheer their hearts out for a beloved alma mater.

The much-awaited championship game between Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) and De La Salle University (DLSU) made practically all of Manila (and perhaps a greater part of the nation) stand still for two hours on Tuesday this week. In boardroom and schoolroom, bedrooms, classrooms, bars, cafés and restaurants people sat with bated breath, their eyes transfixed on the much-

ANOTHER/ p.C6

GO, LA SALLE! Ren Ren Ritualo and Mike Cortez in a celebratory hug

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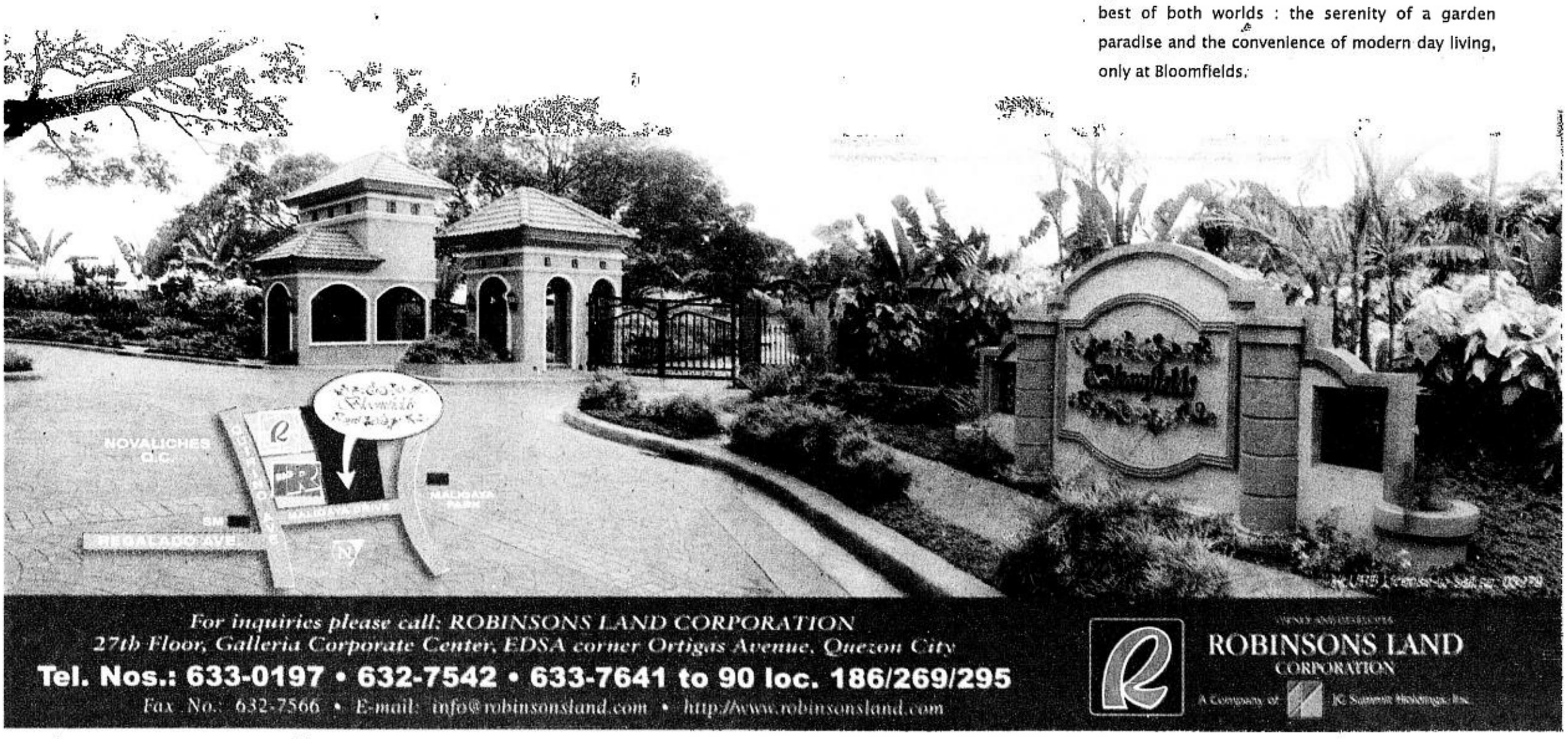

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1. Quickly press and release FLASH, then press 3.

B. To return to Party B if the line of Party C is busy or no one answers (continuous ringing):
1. Quickly press and release FLASH. You are now re-connected to Party B.

C. To alternate between Parties B & C:
1. Quickly press then release FLASH and listen for dialtone. Then press 2.
2. Repeat instruction 1 as often as necessary.

Dial 171 for subscriptions and inquiries.

Keep a sharp eye on your credit card

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

A RECENT victim of credit card thieves was one of the few lucky ones who was not made to pay over P100,000 for purchases the thieves made in his name. Sharp-eyed authorities of Citibank, the issuing company, detected the fraud transactions early enough and promptly blocked the card.

Another credit cardholder, Violeta Hughes, may not be as lucky if she failed to notify the bank about the double swipe that happened at a restaurant.

She wrote to us, "I was charged twice on my credit card at a seafood restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. When I detected the error, I called their attention and told them to remove the repeated charge. Although at some point, the management reasoned out that the cashier may have swiped the card twice, they insisted that it was the bank's error, not theirs. Is this a common practice in Manila?"

It may be too late to do something about it, but Ms Hughes, or the restaurant for that matter, should have notified the bank right away.

Since 1990, skimming counterfeit has been a thorn on the side of credit cardholders and issuing companies. It is the illegal copying, actually stealing, of codes on the magnetic stripe of the card. The small skimming device, about 10 cm long, is attached to the card swipe machine by unscrupulous individuals inside the business establishments such as restaurants, nightclubs, pubs, discotheques and hotel front offices.

The sole aim of the skimmers is to be able to use the credit card at the expense of the owner.

Advisory on credit card fraud

Here's the modus operandi, according to the advisory issued by Chartered Bank-Hong Kong. When the cardholder presents the card for payment, the "collusive" waiter swipes the card across a skimming device. The device basically reads and stores the magnetic stripe date. The card is then delivered to thé cashier counter for processing of transaction. All this time, the cardholder does not know that his credit card magnetic stripe data has been compromised. The cardholder only knows about it upon notification by the bank's fraud prevention unit or upon receipt of the monthly statement of account that will reflect a string of disputed transactions.

Tips on how to protect your cards:

- Treat your credit card as cash.
- During check-in or out from a hotel, be aware on the movement of your credit card, and ensure that you note the staff swiping your card over a POS/EDC terminal only.
- Beware and question the personnel handling your credit card when it is swiped in a device other than a POC/EDC terminal.
- Inform the card fraud control unit (of your issuing bank) should you notice the personnel handling your card swipes it through a device similar to the POS/EDC terminal.
- Do not allow anyone to take your card to another area to process your transaction.
- Speak to and recognize the waiter that handles your credit card during payment. This transmits a "deterrent" message to the personnel handling the card who may have an intention to "skim" your card's magnetic stripe data.

Complaints

Calling LBC EMT Forwarding Services! Please look into the complaint of Dr. K. H. Go of the College of Medicine, UP.

He wrote: "LBC charges P140 for overnight service and P895 for a two-day service per P1,000 money transmittal. My driver paid the fee before cut-off time on a Friday afternoon, expecting that the much-needed P1,000 will reach his wife promptly. The wife called Monday morning with the information that the money had not been delivered. I personally called LBC to complain and I was told that I should write a complaint letter to the operations manager, but I could not get a refund for the difference between the 24-hour service and the 48-hour service.

"I advise those who regularly send money to their families in the province to deal directly with the banks, particularly those with e-banking facility. It minimizes transmission fees and it guarantees safer and faster delivery for hard-earned money."

DHL should look into the parcel sent by Ely de los Santos from Yokohama to his son in Quezon City. It has been almost a month and the package did not arrive as expected. He said his son has been given the runaround when he asked about the package. De los Santos said he is being asked to pay P6,000 if he wanted the package returned to him.

Cherrie_bf@yahoo.dot.com sent us this letter: "I bought two shirts worth P2,848 at Mango in Robinsons. After a few days, however, I found defects in the shirt, so I went back to the store to ask for a replacement. I was told to wait for one week while management decided what to do. After a week, the store management said they could not replace the shirt. They did not consider a run as a defect.

"They should emulate Rustan's Group of Companies which replaces defective items. I advise other shoppers to inspect their purchases before paying for them," Cherrie wrote.

There's a beauty shop along Ortigas Avenue across Rosario Church that advertises P99 for hot oil treatment. What they don't say is that the price doubles up if your hair is long. Not only that, says our letter-writer Nelle Cruz, the shop has only one foot massage and bath machine. But they don't tell you right away that if somebody is using the machine, you have to content yourself with a basin. And they charge the same price.

Kuting@yahoo.com gripes about the cranky person who attends to calls at a pet care center in Pasay. "I called to ask her if they could adopt some stray cats. She was busy and told me to call after one hour. My sister called, but got another grouchy reply. When I called later, another person answered and she apologized for the rudeness of her companion. "I wonder how they treat pets in their care."

A lady called to complain about the obscene text she gets on her cellular phone. "Where will I go to have this texter arrested?"

To get action on complaints about cellular phones, particularly obscene texts, go directly to the One-Stop Public Assistance Center of the National Telecommunication Commission on BIR Road, East Avenue, Triangle, Diliman, QC.

Bring your cell phone but don't erase the text to validate your complaint. You have to file a complaint formally if you want to get action. You can also call Danny Cuenca of Ospac for advice at 926-772.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

New pilgrimage destination

A FLUVIAL parade and a colorful street-dancing parade will greet Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Magallanes, Agusan del Norte today as parishioners celebrate her feast day in the ongoing Lisagan Festival.

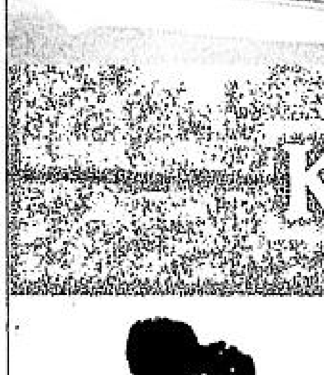
This comes in the wake of the spectacular enthronement ceremonies officiated yesterday by parish priest Lito Belino.

Considered by many parishioners as miraculous, the Marian icon has been drawing flocks of devotees from all over Caraga region for more than 50 years now.

"With all the good deeds that Mama Mary has interceded for her devotees here, there is no doubt that this town is on its way as a major pilgrimage destination in Mindanao," said Caraga tourism director Maria Salome Tan Salcedo.

OUR Lady of the Holy Rosary in Magallanes, Agusan del Norte

Ipinakikilala, gatas na bagay sa lumalaki. Bonakid.



Malaki na ang kanyang ipinagbago. Ngayon, mabigat na siya, biglang tangkad, at maraming kayang gawin. Pero kung tutuusin, baby pa ang katawan niya. Hindi pa ganap ang kanyang paglaki.

Kaya may bagong Bonakid. Ang Bonakid ay sadyang ginawa para sa kanya. May tamang sustansya sa tamang sukat. Dahil bata pa ang kanyang mga buto, baby pa ang ngipin, kailangan niya ng mas maraming calcium.

Dahil maselan pa ang kanyang tiyan, kailangan walang butterfat. At dahil lumalaki pa siya, kailangan niya ng mas maraming protina, iron at B-complex. Dahil espesyal ang iyong anak, bigyan mo siya ng espesyal na alaga.

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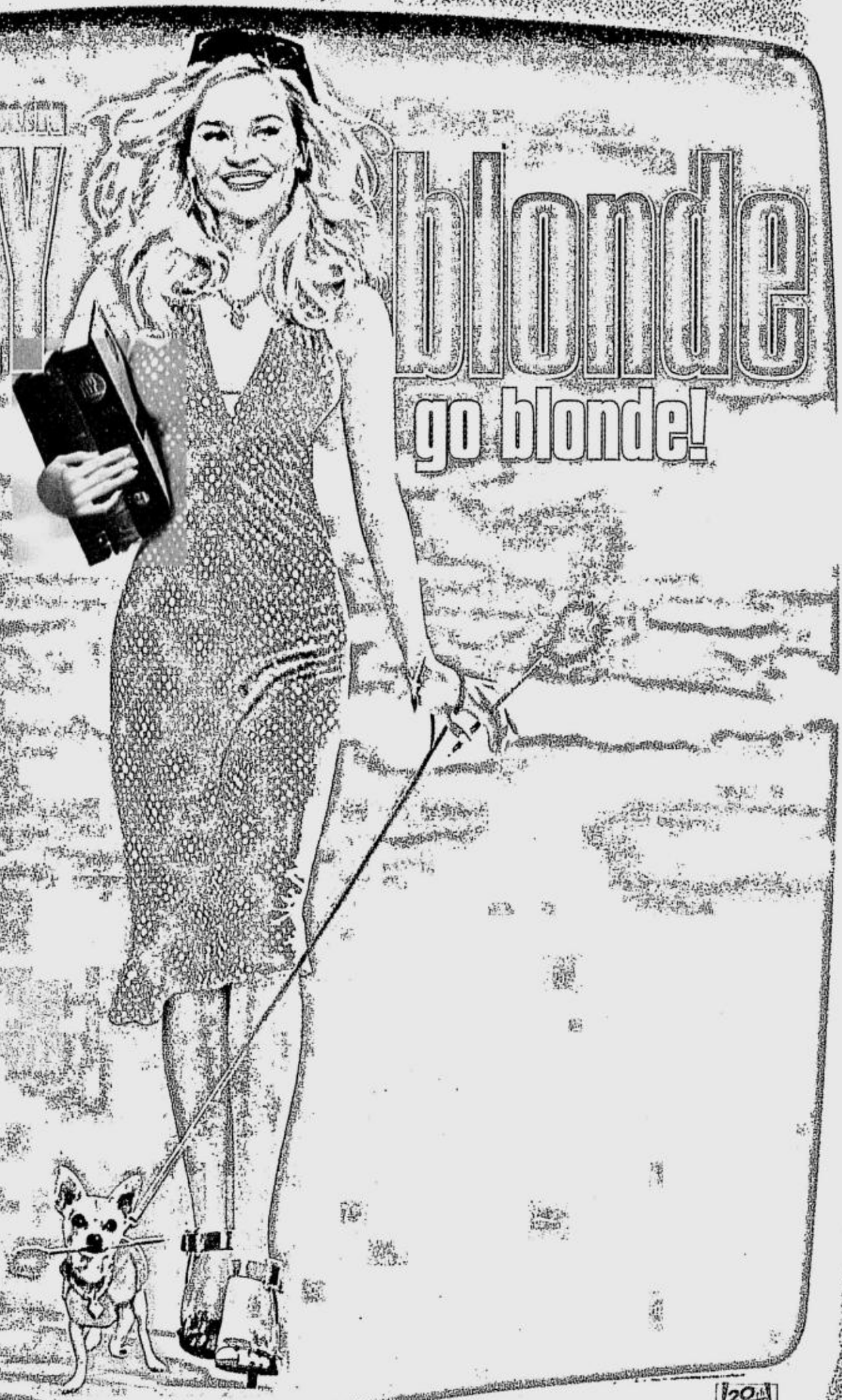

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To join, key in **JOIN CINEMA**. Once a member, you can download Legally Blonde picture messages (key in **PIC LB** for list of keywords, and **PIC** <keyword> to download), screen savers** (key in **SAVER LB** for list of keywords, and **SAVER** <keyword> to download), ring tone* (key in **TONE LB** to download), or experiment with the trivia games and personality test listed below. Send all commands to 239.

Soundtrack available through MCA Univeral featuring the hit song "Perfect Day" by Hoku.

Are You Legally Correct?	Elle Knows	Blonde Scale	Blonde Trivia
Do you know the law? Key in **PLAY LB** and see if you have good judgement. Ex: What is "en banc"? 1. A French bank 2. "All judges are present" 3. Clue?	Time for some mental exercises! Key in **PLAY LB2**. Ex: How many birthdays does the average man have? 1. 1 2. 75 3. 80	How blonde are you? Take this quiz to see where you fall on the scale. Key in **PLAY LB3**. Ex: Which magazine do you subscribe to? 1. Cosmo, Glamour, and Elle 2. People 3. Time	Test your blonde know-how! Simply key in **PLAY LB4**. Ex: Who plays Phoebe on Friends? 1. Duh! Lisa Kudrow 2. Jennifer Aniston 3. Courtney Cox
To answer, simply press REPLY and key in the number (1, 2, or 3) of your choice and send to 239.			

Picture messages, screen savers and ring tone are P12.50 each.
All other text messages sent are P2.50 each.

Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first. Key in QUIT and send to 239.

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She wants to end her cyber relationship with a Pinoy studying in the US

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 24, a Pinay taking a short course in Australia. I reside with my brother and his family. Another brother lives a few blocks away and most of my uncles are here, too. Still, I often find myself missing the Philippines and my friends so I keep in touch with them through e-mails and online chats.

It was in the chatroom where I met Mac, 21. He's a Pinoy studying info-tech in the United States. Like me, he misses the Philippines and his chums. In our conversations, we discovered we share many likes and dislikes.

After a few months, he asked if I could be his girl. At first I was hesitant because I don't believe in long-distance relationships. Also, it was not sure that we would ever meet. Besides, he was just 21 and I didn't think we had the same priorities in life. But just the same, I said, why not? After all, I did like his company, and he did make my heart go thump, thump.

A few weeks later he told me he'd make a short trip to Chicago to see his friends. One of them was his ex-girlfriend, but he assured me that everything would be fine. Then for two weeks, no word from him. I was shattered, worried and restless. I realized I was paying the price for entrusting my heart to someone so far, someone I hadn't met in person, someone who I thought loved me as much as I loved him.

When he came online again, he confessed to spending some time with his ex-girlfriend. He also apologized for not calling me up and explained that he forgot my number. Maybe that was honest of him, but still I was crushed. So, I broke up with him. He didn't want to end our relationship, and said a breakup would be hard for both of us because, as he said, "we love each other." But I ignored that, and just asked that we remain friends.

But I still love him. And though I'm beginning to realize we have far greater differences than similarities, I am willing to give it another try. Do you think I should take him back and go on with this cyber relationship? Is he really in love with me? Should I just remain a friend to him? Is it right to be friends with someone you are in love with?

SAMY

If you want to keep him as a friend, you must first "un-love" him as a sweetheart. Otherwise, you'll only end up jealous of the girls he meets and suspicious of how he lives up to his pledge of love.

It is not easy to "un-love" someone you love, of course. But the alternative is not easy either: to suffer all the doubts and fears of betrayal that one is susceptible to in a long-distance relationship.

You face these two horns of dilemma all because, as you said, you love him. But do you, really?

I find it difficult to believe that you have truly fallen in love with him. All you know of him are what he writes on the chat screen or tells you over the phone. So, how can you be in love with someone you don't know and who doesn't know you? All you have is an idealized or romanticized image of each other. And I wouldn't call that love.

I'd call it loneliness or, more specifically, your common desire to overcome your homesickness. Both of you probably wanted someone who is not family but from 'Pinas, someone to stand for the *barkada* you left behind, or someone who could have been your or his sweetheart had you been here and not there.

What would have been truly painful is if you had failed school. You didn't or at least haven't. What had failed, rather, is your "love relationship." And since it was not true love, there is nothing much to grieve about.

On Le Cordon Bleu

To Wannabechef (PDI, Oct. 14), here are readers' responses to your request for information on Le Cordon Bleu and other culinary schools abroad:

I am at present waiting for the approval of my application at Le Cordon Bleu in Sydney, Australia. Wannabechef may contact an Australian Embassy-affiliated office that helps Filipino students enroll in Australia. Its website is www.idp.edu.au. Wannabe could also try www.cordonbleu.net which has e-mail addresses of Le Cordon Bleu's international campuses as well as course descriptions, requirements and fees.

BABY

I don't have any information about Le Cordon Bleu but I know of a culinary school—not in France, though, but only in mainland USA: New England Culinary Institute, 250 Main Street, Montpelier, Vermont, 05602-9720.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

DR. Edilberto de Jesus, PACU first-vice president; Dr. Maria Ayuyao, PACU president; Rep. Edmund Reyes, chair of the congressional committee on basic education and culture; and Dr. Ester Garcia, CHED chair

AMONG the guests at the COCOPEA turnover rites were Dr. Evelyn Magno, president of Rizal Memorial Colleges in Davao; Rep. Edmund Reyes; Dr. Armand Fabella, former DECS Secretary; and Dr. Oscar Josef, president, Private Retirement Anuity Association.

Educators gather for Cocopea's turnover ceremonies

DECADES before networking became a standard practice in our global village, private school educators had already closed ranks and formed an organization, which enabled them to speak with one voice on common issues and concerns. Bonding took place among private educational institutions—Catholic, Protestant and non-sectarian schools, technical schools and academic colleges and universities. They were all convinced that cooperation rather than competition was the key not only to survival but to peace, harmony and prosperity in a borderless world. Thus, the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (Cocopea) was born.

Concerned about the need for another organization that would take care of financial and technical support for the programs and projects of private schools in the country, the Cocopea worked for the establishment of the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (Fape) in 1968.

Over the last three decades, Fape has been the source of funding for Cocopea and its individual associations.

The Cocopea has been rotating the chairmanship and presidency of the umbrella organization every two years, among its three member-associations: the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (Pacu) and the Association of Christian Schools Colleges and Universities (Acscu).

This year, the chairmanship and presidency of the Cocopea was turned over from Dr. Maria Lim-Ayuyao, Pacu president, to Fr. Roderick Salazar, CEAP president. The turnover rites were recently held at the Casino Español in Ermita, Manila.

The Cocopea turnover rites assembled top government, officials from the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda). Also in attendance were the presidents of private schools.

Among the prominent personalities who came that night were: Rep. Edmund Reyes, chair of the congressional committee on basic education and culture; Rep. Harlin Abayon, chair of the congressional committee on higher and technical education; DECS Secretary Raul Roco; Dr. Ester Garcia, CHED chair; Dr. Milagros Dawa-Hernandez, deputy director-general of the Tesda; Dr. Maria Lim-Ayuyao, president of Pacu and executive vice president of Centro Escolar University; Dr. Armand Fabella, former Education secretary who is now the senior adviser of Fape; lawyer Jose Baltazar, president of Jose Rizal University; and Carol Porio, executive director of Fape.

The highlight of the evening's proceedings was the symbolic turnover of the Cocopea flag from Dr. Ayuyao to Father Salazar. Dr. Ester Garcia, CHED chair, officiated the oath-taking ceremony of Father Salazar, while Roco administered the oath of office to the new Cocopea board members.

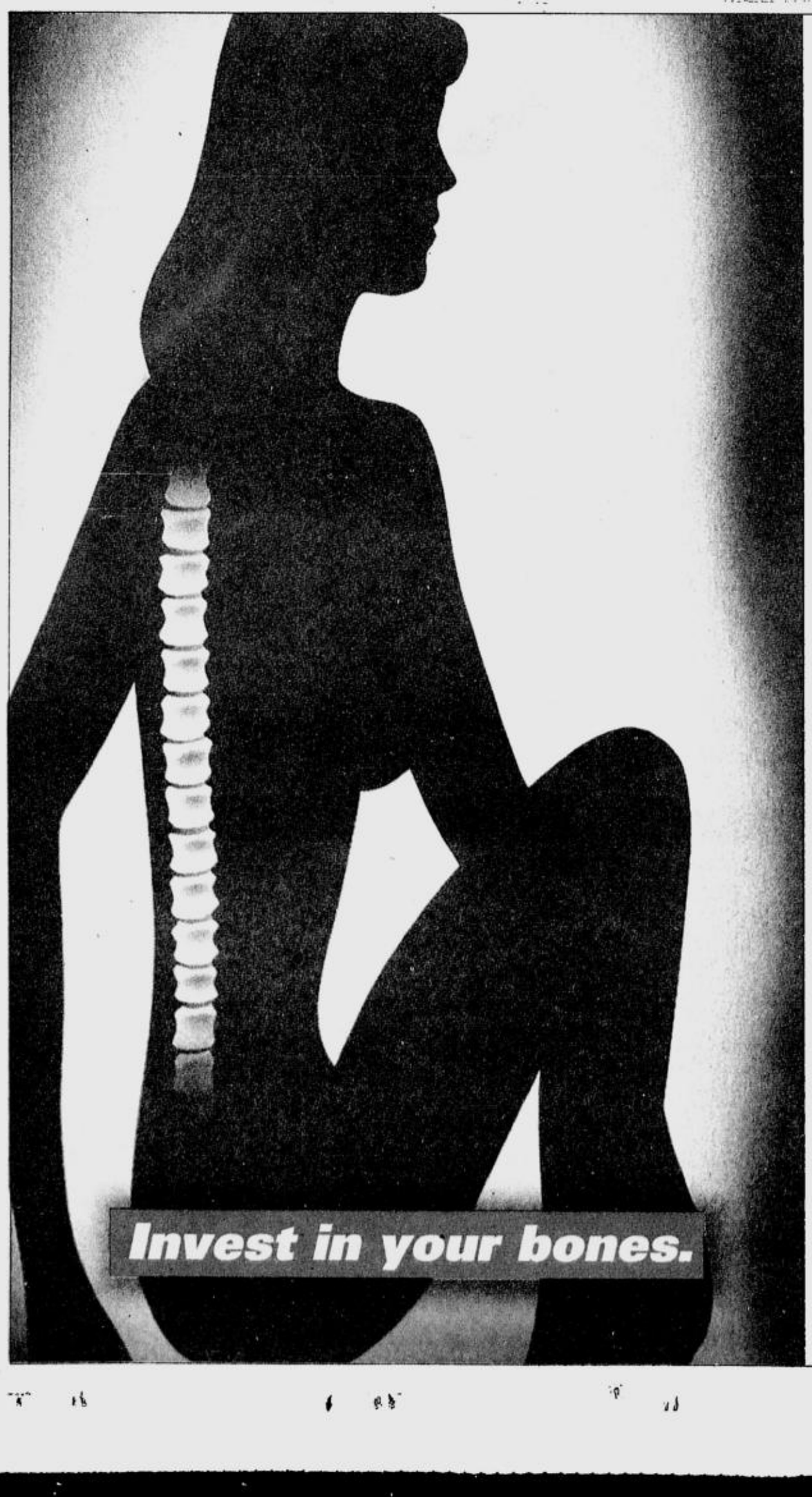
DECS Secretary Raul Roco (left) and Fr. Roderick Salazar Jr.

GRACE Camesa, Fape director for internal audit

CAROL Porio, Fape executive director

REP. Harlin Abayon, chair of the congressional committee on higher and technical education, delivers his congratulatory message.

BETTINA Olmedo, director for institutional networking and development; Gary de la Paz, investment director; and Editha Agaid, director for finance and administrative services



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SOFIA Guballa cuts the ribbon at Migi's Room at the Cupertino School for Special Children while Dr. Mariter Macapagal (left), Manulife EVP Romy Lualhati and Barbara David look on.

MIGI'S ROOM. A special corner for children at play

A room and four corners

"IN LIFE there are no coincidences," began Cathy Babao-Guballa during a talk at the opening of Migi's Room, at the Cupertino School for Special Children earlier this year.

Cathy had been a student of Cupertino's executive director, Dr. Mariter Jalandoni-Macapagal, at the Miriam College Graduate School in a course called Children with Special Needs. The course grew out of Dr. Macapagal's own experience with her son, 36-year-old Andrei, who was diagnosed with autism in the early 1970s. Cathy, on the other hand, lost her own special child. Her son Migi passed away at the age of 4 in June 1998 from complications arising from an open-heart surgery to correct a congenital heart condition called Tetralogy of Fallot.

A dream takes shape

Following her son's death, Cathy set out to establish Migi's Corner, an area for play and recreation within government hospitals. "During Migi's confinement, there was no area for play in his hospital. All there was were a few old toys that had seen better days," she says.

An e-mail to friends and strangers in January 1999 set off a deluge of letters and donations from as far as Canada, Singapore and the Middle East, both in cash and kind, to build the dream corner.

"It was really unbelievable, the outpouring of support from all over. Clearly, that was God's hand at work. There's just no other way to explain it," she says, looking back.

On Feb. 20, 1999, a day shy of what would have been Migi's 5th birthday, the first Migi's Corner was opened at the Philippine Heart Center. With the tremendous amount of donations received, a second Migi's Corner opened at the Philippine Children's Medical Center four months later.

Help also came in the form of talents provided. Pam Agabin, a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Interior Design, had read about the project in the newspaper and offered her services. She has been doing the designs for the corner since day one. Soon a group of UP fine arts students joined her in the project, and they have been painting the beautiful murals for the last three corners which depict a boy and his dinosaur (Migi loved dinosaurs) at play.

Last year, Manulife Phils. heard about the project and offered a grant that funded a third corner, this time for children with cancer at the East Avenue Medical Center, QC. The company also contributed funds that year for a fourth corner at the Davao Medical Center, Davao City.

Perfect timing

"The Lord works in mysterious ways," Cathy says of her meeting with Dr. Macapagal. "Last year I was taking up her course at Miriam College and at the same time Manulife was looking to fund another project, this time in a school for special children. The timing for the project was perfect. Initially I thought we would focus on just children confined in hospitals but the project has grown to encompass even special children."

Andrei is one of 80 students with special needs enrolled at the Cupertino Center for Special Children in La Vista, QC, where teachers are trained to handle exceptional cases such as his. "Individuals like Andrei need extra attention," explained school principal Barbara David. At Cupertino Center's art room, children draw, paint and engage in handicrafts. The vast playground allows the kids to play outdoor games or frolic on swings and seesaws.

Older students attend the "sheltered workshop" where they produce handmade paper and other products like fans and tissue holders. The activities are meant to help overcome their disabilities and give them a sense of worth.

With the opening of Migi's Room, younger children now have a special place for their play, speech and occupational therapy sessions. "Play therapy allows the children to unwind, relax and get away from pressures imposed by their environment," Dr. Macapagal says. The Corners,

A ROOM/ p.C7

ANDREI celebrates his 36th birthday with friends from Cupertino.

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ADMU'S Fr. Bienvenido Nebres believes.

HAIL TO DE LA SALLE. Former Local Government Secretary Raffy Alunan and daughter rally DLSU.

ATENISTA PO AKO. Jim Paredes and daughter

TWO ARCHERS. Jorge Araneta and former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo

Another thrilla in Manila

SEEKING SOLACE. Rainier Sison breaks down after the loss.

(From page C1)

awaited heart-stopping clash of the Archers and Eagles

The game was scheduled for 5 p.m. but as early as 2 p.m. gargantuan traffic jams started to build up on the roads leading to Araneta. Alumni, students, faculty, fans began to make their way into the Big Dome starting at 3 p.m. Since seats were not numbered in the Upper Box and General Admission sections, people came very early to try to get the best spots in the house.

An hour before the game, a few tickets still available at the box office went in a flash. Scalpers were nowhere in sight as there really was nothing to scalp. Rumor had it though that a Patron ticket, which cost P200, sold for as high as P2,000 the day before the championship. Even the best seats though were useless many spectators would later realize. Everyone was practically on his/her feet from the game's start to finish.

By 4 p.m., practically the entire coliseum was filled and at the stroke of 5, Araneta, whose maximum capacity is around 18,000 people, was packed to the rafters. The atmosphere was filled with great excitement and anxiety that were almost palpable. Ateneo's cheering squad, the Blue Babble, as well as that of La Salle's, was also ready to do a battle of the bands.

The great divide

Without any visible demarcation line, Araneta was clearly divided into two that afternoon—one side a sea of green and white and the other half an ocean of blue and white. Prominent alumni from various sectors of society came in full force to boost the morale of their respective teams. The brightest minds in the business and banking sector, political stalwarts, show-biz denizens, academics, former UAAP/NCAA players rallied behind their teams. It was a sight to see grown, dignified men casting their cares to the wind, cheering their hearts out like young boys for love of alma mater.

The passion was just as intense even outside Araneta. Over at the Ateneo High School cafeteria, the school put up a videowall for students and alumni unable to make it to the game. At Strumms on Jupiter Street in Makati, there was much ribbing going on between alumni of both schools as they watched the game side by side on a videowall.

All told, it was an afternoon, a game, that Ateneo and La Salle communities would not forget in a long while. At the end of the game, tears—both of joy and sorrow—filled the coliseum. For the Archers, a sweet victory; for the Eagles, a heartbreaking loss, which, in true Ignatian fashion, they shared with the rest of their supporters in a mass officiated by Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center in the Loyola Heights campus.

And so both teams move on after a memorable season as alumni and other fans wait with great expectation for the next big fight.

E-mail the author at cbguballa @inquirer.com.ph

SMART and staunch support from Manny Pangilinan

V-BOYS. La Salle's Sen. Ralph Recto and Edu Manzano

TEAM ALUMNUS. DLSU's Don Allado

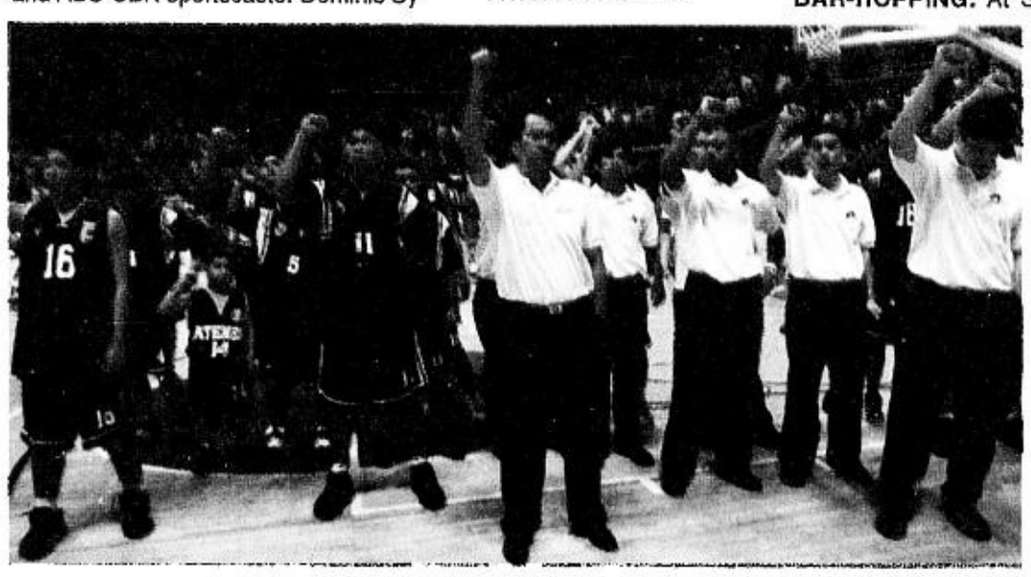
LA SALLE STYLE. Inno Sotto roots for DLSU.

GREEN ARCHER IN BLUE. Councilor Robert Ortega

FOUR IN A ROW. The hand sign of victory

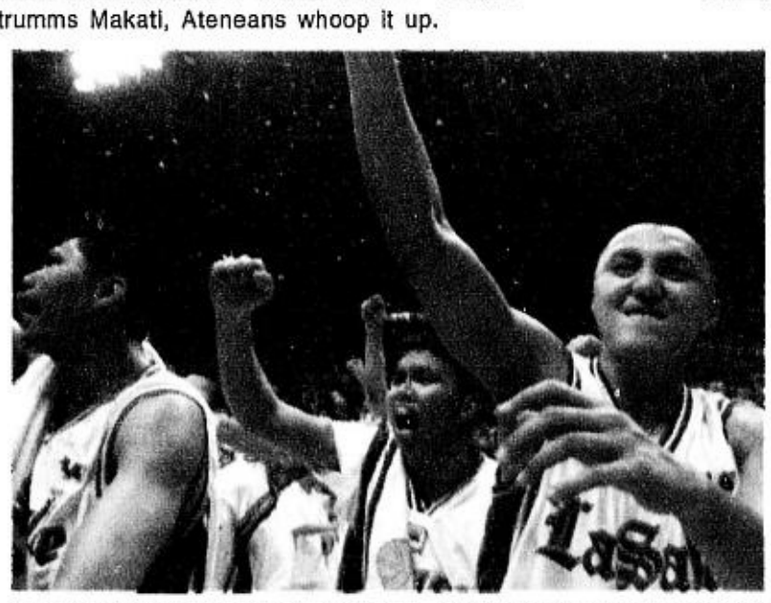
ARCHERS ALL. Pop Cola's Mon Jose and ABS-CBN sportscaster Dominic Uy

RAH RAH RAH! Rep. Monico Fuentebella


WIN or lose, it's the school we choose. This is the Ateneo way.

BROTHERHOOD IN VICTORY AND DEFEAT. Former Ateneo high school teammates, DLSU's BJ Manalo and AdMU's Enrico Villanueva, show true sportsmanship.

BAR-HOPPING. At Strumms Makati, Ateneans whoop it up.


A SHIELD OF GREEN AND WHITE. We'll fight to keep your glory bright and never shall we fail.

A room . . .

(From page C5)

and now this room, have kept Migi's memory alive and enabled Cathy to come to terms with her loss while helping sick children and their parents as well.

"It has not been easy," she says. "The pain of his loss and the empty space in our hearts will always remain. However, knowing that his loss has given birth to places where children can find momentary solace and joy somehow eases the pain. In a way, our son lives on in the heart of every child who comes to the corners."

As Manulife officials cut the ribbon to formally open Migi's Room at Cupertino, kids rushed in happily, eager to explore a world where they can be like any child.

Find out more about Migi's Corner at www.migiscorner.com or, should you wish to help build more Migi's Corners, email supermom@pacific.net.ph.

FULFILLING A DREAM. Jom Ignacio, VP-Marketing of Manulife, Cathy Babao-Guballa and Ces Onrubia-Jacinto, VP-Human Resources of Manulife

TEAM MIGI. Pam Agabin and students from the UP College of Fine Arts

Lesson-planning integrates learning styles and multiple intelligences

HOW do you integrate learning styles and multiple intelligences in lesson plans and in the school's curriculum?

Come and join the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles' (CLTS) two-day seminar-workshop on "Making Lesson Exemplars Using Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences" slated on Oct. 26-27 at the YMCA International Hostel in Manila.

The first day will focus on learning styles and the crafting of the following instructional resources: teaching style inventory; making tactile/kinesthetic learning materials; using small group techniques; designing contract activity packages, programmed learning sequence and multisensory instructional packages.

The second day will dwell on multiple intelligences and its implications on curriculum design with particular emphasis on lesson planning, project-based curriculum and teaching for understanding.

Seminar facilitator will be Prof. Henry S. Tenedero, a certified learning styles trainer and president of CLTS, an affiliate of the International Learning Styles Network based at St. John's University in New York. Tenedero will be assisted by Prof. Albert Saldajeno, director of the Tanghalang Henyo Theatre Arts. Registration is still open.

Call 374-4967 (Vir Macaspac) or 936-6790 (Ruben Gatchalian).

Seminar on entrepreneurship

THE CENTER for Human Research Development Foundation Inc. is holding a seminar-workshop on "Creative Entrepreneurship: Should You Start Your Own Business?" on Oct. 25-26, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Benitez Memorial Center, UP Diliman, QC.

Resource speaker is Rene Esteban, an entrepreneurial coach and business product development consultant to various government and private business organizations. He is a graduate of economics/financial management and micro industry/entrepreneurial studies from the University of the Philippines. He completed micro and macro better processing control studies at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, Hawaii, USA.

Esteban is also the business development consultant of Ugnayan Philippines for Asia-Pacific and the executive vice president for sales and marketing and corporate planning of Queen Food Manufacturing Corp.

Call Beth Solquio at 927-9858 or (0919) 239-9464.

Your Baby Is Our Concern
FARLIN® CARES for the FILIPINO baby.

Farlin, the experts parents trust

BABIES are the most precious things. Caring for them is something parents will never leave to chance. There's nothing parents won't do to keep their little ones comfortable, happy, well-clothed and well-fed.

It can be a tall order, especially for working mothers, but there are experts to turn to. For feeding bottles and other baby care products, there's Farlin. Since 1972 it has been manufacturing and continuously developing convenient, safe, and high-quality products, which make caring for babies a joy.

Besides bottles, Farlin's product line now also includes cleaning, oral development, and other feeding aids, which mothers here and around the world have learned to trust.

Certified baby-friendly, Farlin's feeding bottles are made of food grade PC materials, which are nontoxic, break-resistant, and do not warp in high temperature. You can boil them for as long as you deem necessary to sterilize them, and they will withstand the heat. The easy-to-open snap-off bottle hoods are designed to prevent leaks and spills.

Farlin's soft and transparent silicone nipples are laser pierced, odorless, tasteless and nontoxic. They follow the contour and feel of a mother's breast and won't wear out easily from baby's constant sucking. The bullet-shaped ribs and linear bars ensure the easy flow of liquids and prevent the nipples from collapsing.

For the most ideal feeding set-up, Farlin gives the following tips.

- *Sit in a comfortable chair with good back support, cradling baby semi-upright in your arms.*
- *Never prop the baby's bottle, even when you're busy, because this increases the risk of choking and ear infections.*
- *Feeding should be unhurried, relaxed — a great time for bonding. Caress baby, hum or talk to him, making eye contact.*

When the baby is crying or fretful, soothe him with Farlin's pacifier. It is safe, nontoxic, durable, with a transparent hygienic cover to keep it clean and sterile. A pacifier is intended to soothe baby's urge to suck and helps keep him from developing the thumb-sucking habit.

Farlin's baby products also include spill-proof training cups, gum soothers, fork and spoon sets, powder case, diaper clips, sterilizer set, rack and tongs set, and other products.

New Accessories For Babies from Farlin

Buying things for the baby is an exciting experience, especially for first-time parents. But it can be confusing and exhausting, especially when you realize there's a whole planet of products, in a myriad of designs and styles, on the market. Rating products according to safety, durability, convenience, design and price can be quite a puzzler. Parents end up buying either nothing or so much more than baby needs.

The new accessories [illegible] grip fork-and-spoon set, pacifier, [illegible] proof cup, [illegible]

Farlin, manufacturers of baby care products since 1972, makes it easier with its new line of safe and high-quality infant accessories. Each product is backed by years of research and experience and has passed strict international safety standards.

One is the **silicone pacifier**, which is made of a non-toxic silicone material that won't warp. Its nipple does not absorb odors and flavors, as it satisfies baby's urge to suck. To ensure baby's safety, the mouth guard is non-detachable, so it cannot be accidentally swallowed. Moreover, all Farlin pacifiers have holes on the mouth guard to keep baby from suffocating.

For babies ready for solid food, Farlin designed the **soft-grip fork-and-spoon set**. Since babies are also starting to discover the use of their hands at this stage, the utensils' soft handles are carefully contoured to improve their grip as well as cushion their hands. The plastic edges of both spoon and fork are soft, making these safe for baby's tender gums. For a more thorough scoop, there's the **silicone soft-scoop spoon**, which has a flexible and durable scoop that is gentle on baby's sensitive gums. It also has a long handle, ideal for reaching into deep areas of bowls and jars.

Teething can be painful and uncomfortable for babies, and Farlin offers a safe and convenient way to help relieve the pain, and soothe sore and tender gums. The **cooling teether** is made of high quality, tear-resistant materials. Its surface has different textures, which provide added relief and comfort to baby's swollen gums. The water inside the teether is sterilized and guaranteed safe, as attested to by its having passed the European Standard on liquid-filled toys.

As babies explore their surroundings and learn skills, they become adventurous. And as they grow more adept in handling things around them, they assert their independence by touching whatever rouses their curiosity. Weaning them from the bottle is a major stage in baby care. Farlin's clear **training cup** and **spill-proof cup** make the transition gradual and more convenient. The spout is so angled that it is not drastically different from the nipple and babies' lips won't get disoriented by the strange new shape and feel.

Moreover, a special feature of the spill-proof cup is the valve beneath its spout. This valve, which has a cross-cut design, enables babies to regulate the flow of the liquid. This means babies can get a drink only if they suck on the spout, and that even if the cup is held at a horizontal angles, the fluid in it won't spill. The spill-proof cup is made of non-breakable and nontoxic materials, and comes in attractive designs that would make babies want to use it over the bottle.

With such baby products designed to meet even unexpected needs, parents can better enjoy caring for their babies and leave the worrying to Farlin. These products are the next best thing to having a private nursemaid around.

family

Special course on the care of a special child

BY CATHY BABAO-GUBALLA

EVERY child has the basic right to food, clothing, shelter, education, the right to play, to be loved by a parent or caregiver so s/he can grow into a healthy, responsible and caring adult.

Fortunately for a great majority of children, most, if not all of these needs are met. However, there are countless others who are not provided even the most basic needs—food, clothing or shelter. And there is also a particular group of children whose needs could not be addressed because they are hampered by other difficulties. Special children have certain unique requirements that have to be fulfilled first before their other needs can be addressed.

A parent who has the skills to meet his/her special child's needs, who is able to process information and decide what is best for his/her child, is an empowered parent.

The University of the Philippines Open University has designed a special course on how to organize the best suitable care for a special child defined by the course as someone with genetic, metabolic, physical, mental or developmental disorders. The definition includes children with physical impairments, for example blindness, deafness, multiple disability, autism, Down Syndrome, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, Turner Syndrome and other metabolic or genetic problems.

Currently, though, conditions such as blindness, hearing impairment and other learning disabilities are not included in the course. The course teaches the parent or caregiver how to explore and stimulate the self-care competencies of one's special child. It also presents various case studies on how other parents and caregivers handle the needs of their special children and teaches parents/caregivers which organizations can support them in their efforts to address the needs of the special child.

The final product of the course is a Caring Plan, which will show how the parent intends to meet the needs of his/her child. Throughout the course, students are guided through all the different steps in making the plan. Two thick manuals provide the student with a wealth of information while two videos introduce him/her to the experiences of other parents and caregivers. Though the course is conducted for the most part through distance education (a personal computer is a must), there are four face-to-face sessions that the students attend for half a Saturday at the UP-Manila campus.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Special parents

Caring for the Special Child was the "baby" of spouses Drs. Arturo M. Pesigan and Helen dela Paz Pesigan. The couple found inspiration for the course from their own experience with their special child, now an 8-year-old little girl who is able to hold her own thanks to her parents' unstinting love and pursuit of better opportunities for her.

Arturo is the program's overall technical coordinator while wife Helen is the faculty-in-charge of the course. The course material was written by a formidable team of specialists headed by the country's foremost genetic specialist, Dr. Carmencita Padilla, and leading developmental pediatrician, Dr. Alexis Reyes.

With a grant from Johnson & Johnson Medical Phils., Janssen Pharmaceutica, and Johnson & Johnson Worldwide, the Open University began to offer this course last August. The first class of 13 parents and two educators graduated yesterday. The next class will begin sometime in January.

"It's really all about empowering the parent and enabling them to make the right and the best choices for their children," Dr. Roderic Ofrin, vice chancellor for research and development, says. The course, he adds, is divided into two units.

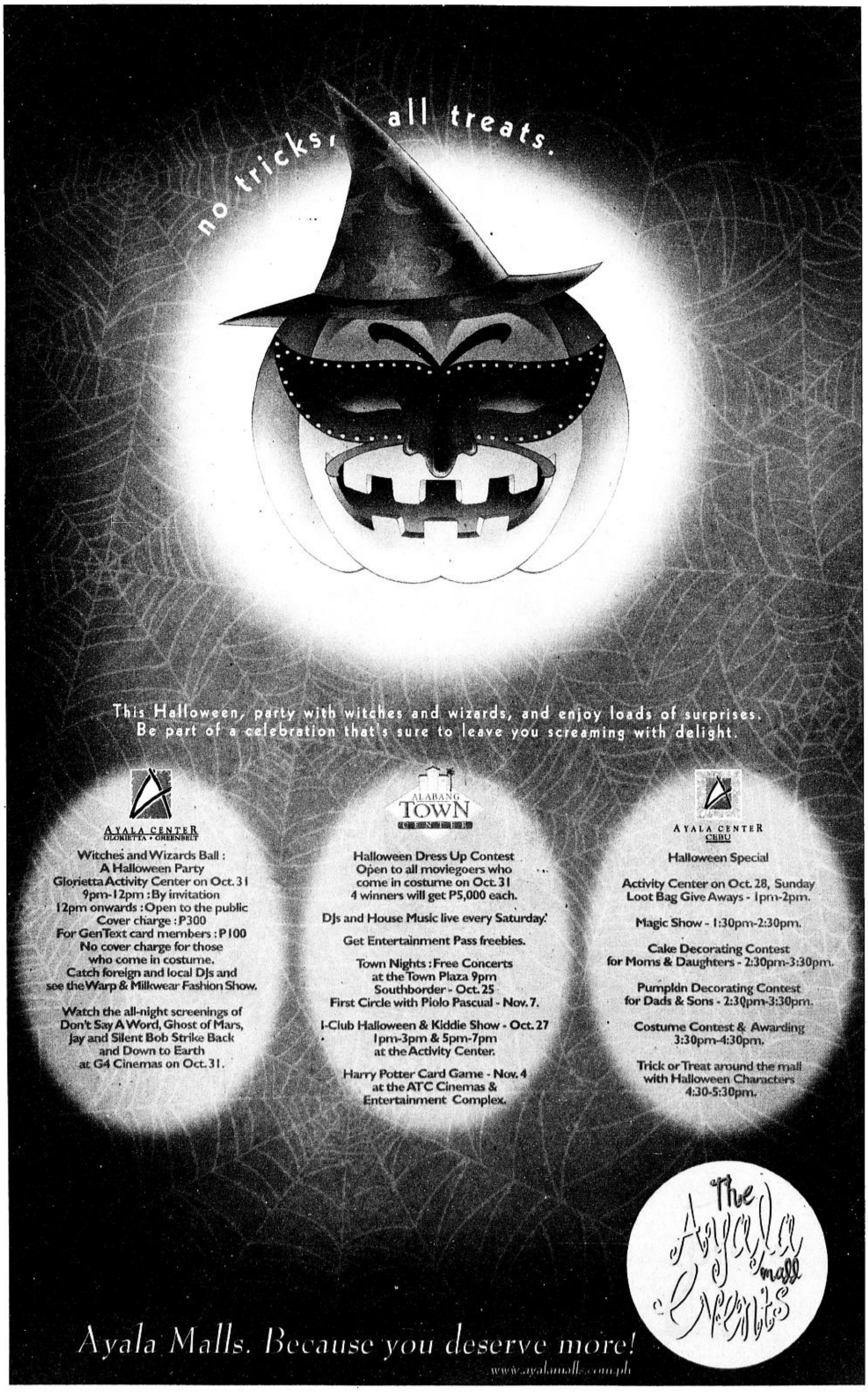
The first unit consists of three modules that present the situation of Filipino children with special needs. It cites the difficulties the children face and the current laws and policies covering the care of individuals with disabilities. It also discusses specific forms of genetic and metabolic disorders, their causes, characteristics and applicable modes of intervention. In module three, the caregiver is given tips on how to help the child with special needs accomplish different milestones.

The second unit focuses on the prevention of genetic and metabolic disorders and in meeting the various needs of the child. Modules tackle topics like meeting the child's physical, cognitive, motor, social and behavioral needs. Also covered are the causes of and contributing factors to the development of children with special needs, how the disabilities may be passed on and a brief background on caring for such children in a community setting.

"We hope that these modules shall start other initiatives to make society better understand the situation of our children with special needs and to further strengthen our efforts to support them," Arturo says. "While preparing these modules, I came across one of the books written by a renowned expert on autism. The author acknowledged that the publication of distance education modules by the University of Birmingham contributed immensely in increasing the knowledge and skills of caregivers of autistic children in the United Kingdom. We hope to see that such will develop further in the Philippines. This course is our humble contribution."

Call the UP-Open University at 526-2272 or 523-1633 or e-mail fhs-upou@mozcom.com

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



British expert speaks on autism

PAUL Shattock, O.B.E., director of the Autism Research Unit, University of Sunderland, United Kingdom, will be the guest speaker during the 7th National Conference on Autism on Oct. 26-28 at the 5/F Convention Hall, IEC Building, NIA Complex, Edsa, QC. Shattock has done extensive research on the possible relationship between autism and diet as well as on the possible environmental factors affecting autism. Other speakers are renowned developmental pediatricians Dr. Alexis Reyes and Dr. Rhandy PeBenito, Dr. Marilyn Ortiz, child neurologist, and Dr. Eva Cutiongco of the Institute of Human Genetics. With the theme "Looking at Autism from a Lifespan Perspective," wide-ranging topics such as genetics, medications, immunizations, secretin, among others, will be discussed. The conference is hosted by Autism Society Phils. Call the ASP office at 926-6942 or 434-9249 or via e-mail autism-phils@pacific.net.ph.

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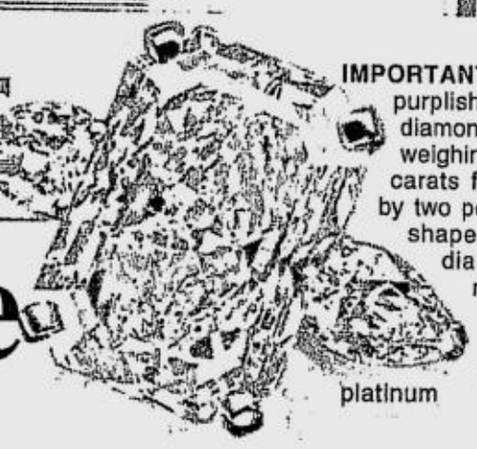
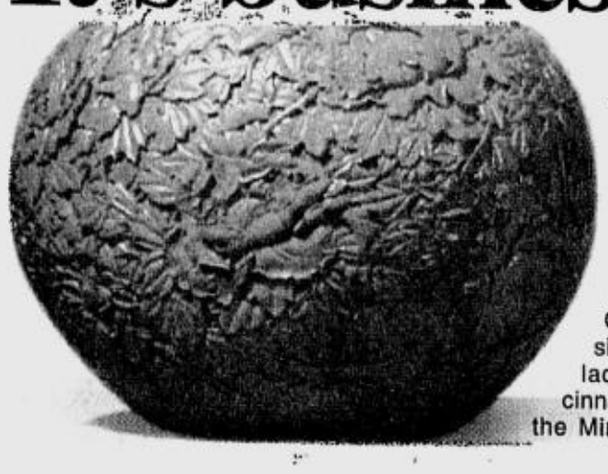


IMPORTANT fancy purplish-pink diamond ring weighing 9.36 carats flanked by two pear-shaped diamonds mounted in pink gold-plated platinum

It's business unusual in art scene



THE *PIECE de resistance* of the Chinese art sale—a 20-inch porcelain Qing vase simulating red lacquered cinnabar from the Ming Dynasty

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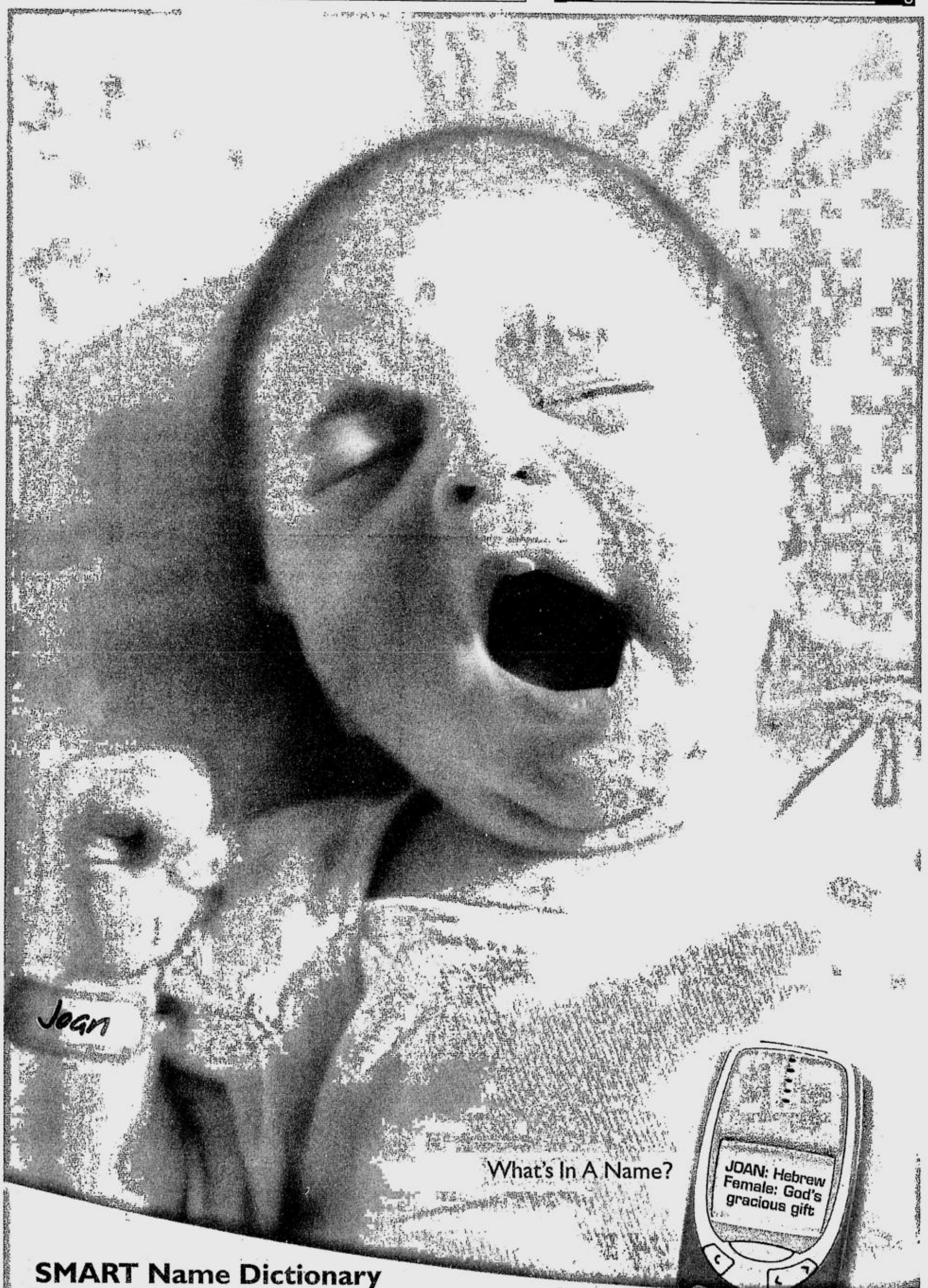
• Philippine Science High School
• Law School
• Preparatory School

The Southeast Asian painting sales in Singapore raked in over $3 million, topping Sotheby's previous record. Nineteen of the 162 lots offered for sale were from the Philippines



BY KITTY GO

HONG KONG—The global recession has put a damper on designer fashion. Prada is postponing its planned IPO (initial public offering) for this year, Leiber (formerly Pegasus) has put the Miguel Androver label up for sale and, after public acquisitions, fashion conglomerates Gucci, LVMH and Richmont are lowering their sales targets. However, for the art business, it is business unusual. Despite the global recession, auction house Sotheby's experienced a buying frenzy that happens when the economy is strong.

Asked about the surprising sales results and speculation of a poor art market, Henry Howard-Sneyd, Sotheby's managing director for China and Southeast Asia, replied, "There is always speculation that they may not be successful but no one understands the dynamics. It has nothing to do with the stock market. Maybe people want to diversify investments or they just want to cheer themselves up."

The Sept. 30 Southeast Asian painting sales in Singapore by Sotheby's raked in over $3 million, topping their previous record. Nineteen of the 162 lots from the sale were from the Philippines. Of the 19, seven went unsold. Topping the sale was Balinesische Legende, which sold for approximately $890,000, by the Indo-European painter Walter Spies, the same painter who topped last year's sale.

"We are very pleased with the results of the sale [today]," said Mok Kim Chuan, specialist in charge. "The packed salesroom and active bidding proved that the market is very strong. Competition is keen on prewar Indonesian paintings. There was also active bidding among local collectors, Indonesian and European collectors. We are also glad to see new faces among bidders. The result today is also an indication that the market for Southeast Asian paintings is a mature one."

IT'S BUSINESS/ p.D2

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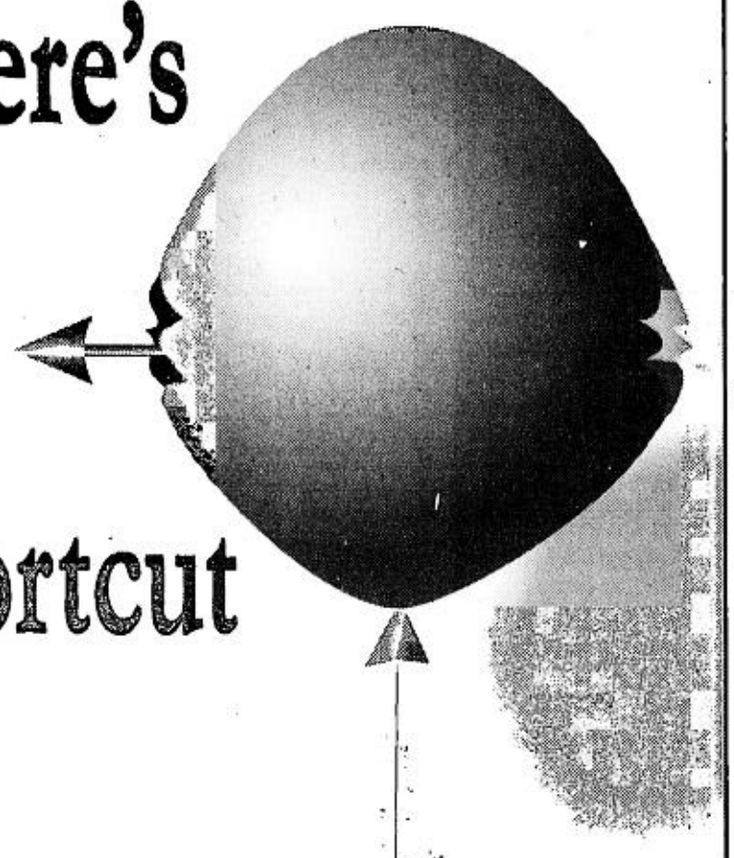


If you're like one of the millions on those "get-thin quick" diets, then you know they don't work. Weight lost through these fad diets is quickly gained back, often becoming harder to lose.

No question, obesity is a disease. And one that brings about many complications. Heart disease, diabetes, high-blood pressure, and high-cholesterol level, are but a few of the unhealthy effects of obesity.

OBESITY TEST

To find out if you are obese or not, answer the following questions:

1) Is your waist circumference more than 31 inches (for women) and 35 inches (for men)?

2) Is your Body Mass Index (BMI) above 23?

$$BMI = \frac{\text{Weight (kilograms)}}{\text{Height (meters)}^2}$$

3) Do you have any of the following diseases?
- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol level
- High triglyceride level
- Difficulty in breathing

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions then you might be suffering from obesity. Consult your doctor now or call the Obesity Fatline and find out ways to manage this disease.

If you want to avail of a free BMI calculator, simply call, fax, or e-mail us through our Obesity Fatline numbers.

Being a disease, it requires medical attention and medication. Consult your doctor now or call the Obesity Fatline for advice on how to combat obesity.

The battle against obesity isn't about speed at all.

Obesity Fatline Numbers

Roche

899-5955 (Metro Manila)
1-800-1888-5955 (Provincial Areas)
(02)890-5012 (Fax)
e-mail:roche@bcdpinpoint.com

"THE MAID of Bataan" by Fernando Amorsolo interprets the misery of war.

ANITA Magsaysay-Ho's "Two Ladies with Fruit" was one of the top-selling pieces at the Singapore Southeast Asian Paintings auction.

It's business unusual in art scene

(From page D1)

Although Filipino paintings do not fetch as high a price as Indonesian or Indo-European work, two of the top 10 paintings sold were by Filipinos. Fernando Amorsolo's museum quality "The Maid of Bataan" sold to an Asian collector for approximately $175,000, a few thousands above its highest estimate of about $170,000. This 1942 masterpiece was formerly housed in the Rome branch of PCIBank and, later, the Asian Bank in Manila. Anita Magsaysay-Ho's "Two Ladies with Fruit" sold for about $67,000.

Pacita Abad's "By Night I Was Wild with Abandon" is one of only eight large works in *trapunto* (a three-dimensional style where objects or cloth are sewn onto the canvas) reflecting her fondness for Yemen. This work sold for approximately $4,800. "Workers," a rare 1946 canvas by Cesar Legaspi, sold for about $27,000.

Future important sales

As they do every year, Sotheby's will hold two very important sales for the season here in Hong Kong—the "Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite" auction on Oct. 30 and "Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art" on Oct. 29, and, later that afternoon, "Important Watches." All sales and exhibitions (Oct. 26-28) will be held at the Ballroom of the Island Shangri-La.

Over 300 lots of jadeite and precious stones are expected to bring in $24.5 million. Howard-Sneyd says that many people are unaware that buying jewelry at auction has the same assurance of quality and service as that from a jeweler. The items could even be cheaper. It is a known fact that jewelry is a good and portable investment. "At this time of uncertainty, and I don't want to sound negative, if you're talking about

IT'S BUSINESS/ p.D3

A RARE Cesar Legaspi from 1946 titled "Workers" reflects the advanced state of modern Philippine art after the war.

It's business unusual in art scene

(From page D2)

fleeing with cash, you can only put so much in a suitcase," says Quek Chin Yeow, director of jewelry in Asia. "But you can put millions worth of gems in a little pouch."

Highlights from the jadeite sale include lot 912, a traditional jade necklace of 9 luminous beads. Also the sale is lot 97, a high-domed cabochon jade ring valued between $580,000-$640,000.

FANCY circular cut vivid yellow diamond weighing 4.17 carats flanked by six other circular cut yellow diamonds mounted in platinum

Lot 921, an important 21.52 carat D-flawless, emerald-cut diamond ring is on the block for $950,000-$1,080,000. A pair of heart-shaped diamonds (lot 927) of approximately 11 carats each is classified as D color of Internally Flawless (IF) clarity and estimated to fetch $900,000-$1,000,000.

Colored diamonds also feature strongly in this sale and Asians, particularly the people of Hong Kong, have been snapping them up at auctions. The rarity of colored diamonds is enough reason for prices to escalate. Pink diamonds start at $8,000 a carat while fabled blue diamonds start at $30,000 a carat. One carat of colored diamond is unearthed for every 10,000 carats of colorless ones. This sale features an evenly saturated, 9-carat purplish-pink diamond (lot 926) estimated at $1.2-$1.4 million. The rarity of this gem is threefold: first, a pink diamond is in itself a rarity; second, if found, they are rarely over two carats; and, third, any pink diamond with even saturation makes it exceptional.

There are also two important yellow diamonds, lot 918, a 4-carat one at $280,000-$320,000; and lot 893, a deep yellowish green one for $303,000-$397,000. Blue diamonds have been the gem of choice of royalty like Marie Antoinette and socialites like Marjorie Merriwether Post. Lot 928 on the catalog cover is a heart-shaped, 3-carat, fancy blue diamond ring valued at $1 million.

Chinese art

The highlight of this fall's Chinese ceramics and art sale is an extremely rare Qianlong (Qing Dynasty, AD 1736-1795) simulated cinnabar lacquer porcelain vase (lot 583). Its globular *tianquiping* shape originated in the Yongle period (Ming Dynasty, AD 1403-1424) but in blue and white porcelain. The cinnabar lacquer treatment on this porcelain piece imitates the actual lacquer from the Ming Dynasty. Only two other pieces of red-enameled porcelain are known to exist——one was formerly owned by British Rail Pension Fund and has since been sold by Sotheby's and the other is at the National Palace in Taiwan. This exceptional piece, in absolutely perfect condition, is expected to fetch $1.12 million.

The sale also has remarkable pieces of blue and white porcelain from the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Most notable is the blue and white dragon vase from the Qianlong period (lot 549). Jars bearing this pattern of four dragons, intricate floral patterns and waves, appear never to have been recorded. It is estimated to fetch $690,000-$800,000.

Art for the Buddhist altar comprise the two delightful and colorful lots of 606 and 607. Worship of colorful deities has a long tradition in Tibetan Buddhism but because the firing and modeling of such figurines are complicated, they have remained very rare. Colorful pieces are known to have been used only in imperial palace precincts.

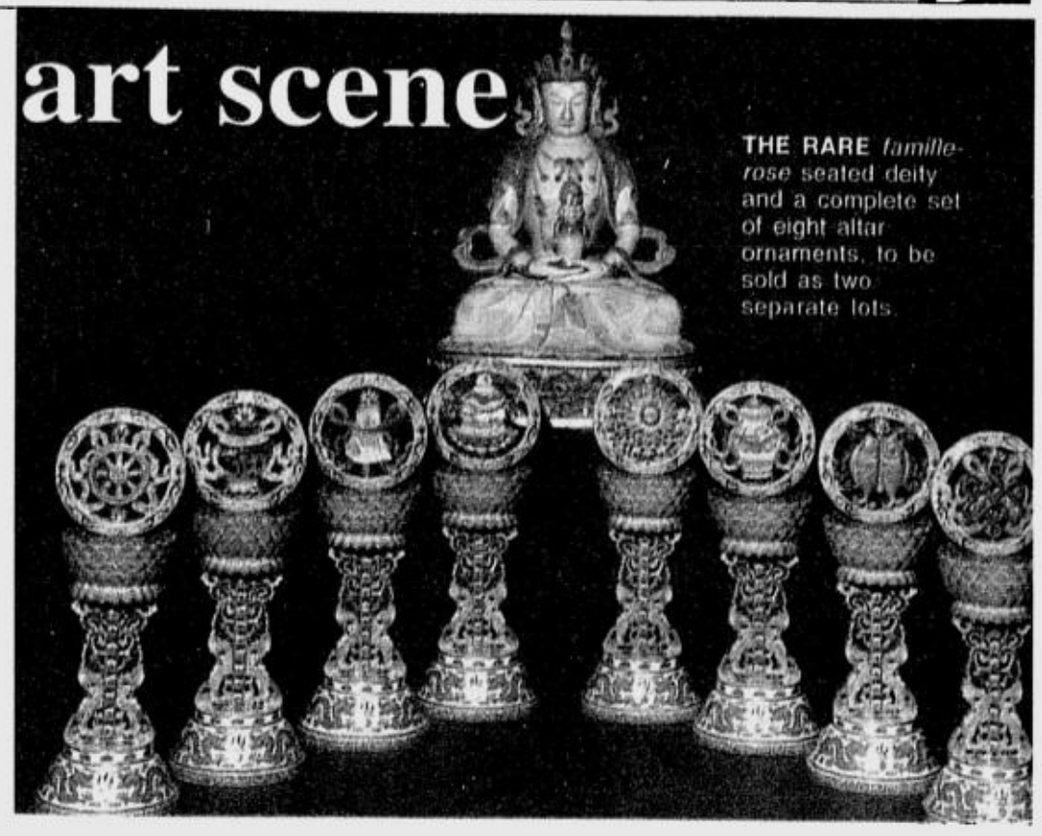
The seated Avalokitesvara painted in a *famille-rose* style is from the Qianlong period of the Qing Dynasty. Sold separately but perfectly matching the figurine is a rare and complete set of eight altar ornaments also in the *famille-rose* style. It is extremely rare for altar ornaments of this type to have survived and no other complete set has ever been offered at auction. The deity is expected to bring in between $190,000-$250,000 while the altar ornaments will go for $280,000-$350,000.

Something for everyone

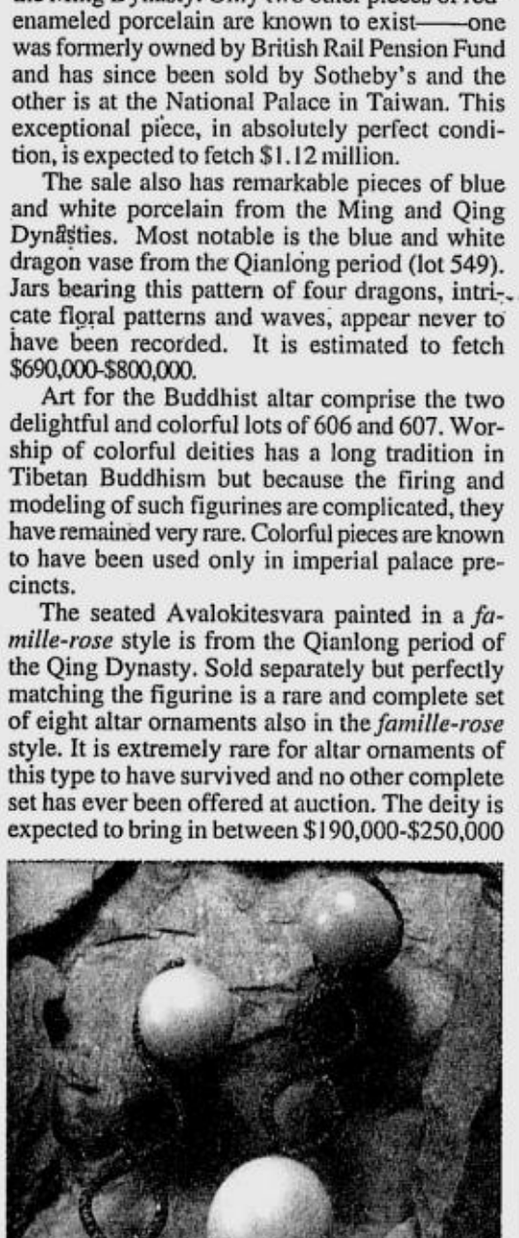
Despite the prohibitive prices of highlighted pieces in every sale, there is hope for the masses (that's you and me!). Some lots can be had for as low as a few thousand dollars. In the case of the jewelry sale, there are some beautiful pieces being sold with no reserve anywhere from a thousand dollars to $50,000. Items classified "Without reserve" are those that will be sold to the highest bidder, regardless of the estimate on the catalog.

For inquires on these and any future Sotheby's sales, contact Camille Abello at the Manila office: e-mail camille.abello@sothebys. com, tel. 849-3422/3971, fax 849-3917. Sotheby's Manila is at the 27/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

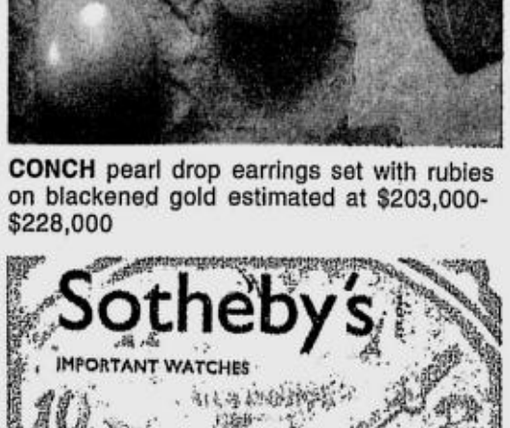
E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com.



THE RARE *famille-rose* seated deity and a complete set of eight altar ornaments, to be sold as two separate lots.



CONCH pearl drop earrings set with rubies on blackened gold estimated at $203,000-$228,000



NOT to be missed is the "Important Watch" sale by Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 29.

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CITIBANK

Look who's shopping at Ayala Malls

CLEOFE Duran, an employee at the human resources department of the Makati City Hall, has a Discount Card Plus that gives her discounts every time she shops, and special gifts.

ACTOR Diether Ocampo's favorite Ayala Mall is the Glorietta and fellow actor Jomari Yllana's is the Alabang Town Center. Cleofe Duran, an employee of the Human Resources Department of the Makati City Hall, even owns a Discount Card Plus that allows her discounts when she goes shopping at Glorietta. So does Marissa Paguio, a taxi operator residing in the Makati area.

In the past few months, the Ayala Malls' focus has been to create a stronger entertainment-based image. Aside from the regular concerts staged in Alabang Town Center, the cinemas have also been recently overhauled to welcome state-of-the-art changes, the Alabang Town Center Cinemas and Entertainment Complex. Outside, the cinemas are surrounded by other entertainment activities like the Olympic World wall-climbing facility, plus billiard and bowling halls and, of course, Timezone Family Entertainment Center.

But perhaps the best proof that the Ayala Malls believe that its shoppers "deserve more" is the new Greenbelt, set to premier its first phase—a restaurant row that includes al fresco dining—by the end of this year.

AVP of the Commercial Centers Group Rowena Tomeldan calls it "the first real urban retail entertainment center" that the country will see. It promises to put together the best restaurants and chefs, strictly selected interactive shops, and another set of the most modern cinema facilities—and in its heart is a 2.8 hectare park of greens and water fountains.

"It is something we want the Filipinos to be proud of," Winnie Nazareth, AVP Commercial Centers Group, says. "We want them to have a compelling reason to visit the mall, to shop with us. We also look at it as a form of service to the public who have been patronizing our malls all these years."

JOMARI Yllana's favorite Ayala mall is the Alabang Town Center, where he goes every weekend with his family or kid. He says he loves the Spanish plaza architecture of the Town.

DIETHER Ocampo hardly has time to shop, but when he does get the time, he goes to his favorite Ayala Mall, the Glorietta, and checks out the Bench store.

Kilala mo ba talaga ang iyong favorite Talk 'N Text hoopster? Access the Talk 'N Text Jam Slambook and find out more about your idol's favorites. With over 100 categories, from favorite food to favorite movie, siguradong kuha mo na ang lahat ng info na kailangan mo! Talk 'N Text Jam also features Top Pics (signature logos & picture messages) and Slambook (favorites).

Know your idol's favorites! Here's how:

To get a list of other Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, type <LIST> and send to 290.

Pal Asi Send — Type Pal <player name> and send to 290.

Fave Color Send — Type Fave <category> and send to 290.* *Ex: Color, car, shoes, etc.

Asi: Favorite color: red. Send — You will receive the requested info via text!

* P2.50/message sent. P12.00/logo, icon and picture message download. Operator logos, group graphic icons and picture messages are supported by selected Nokia handsets only.

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Yan ang galing without overspending! SMART

CECILE and Louie Ysmael

MARCO Antonio and Patrick Reyno

SANDY and Philip Romualdez

Paz Yuchengco and Lina Ross, managing editor of Tatler magazines

JO Ramos

New mag's coup de grace

FOUR presidential daughters, namely, **Imee Marcos, Jackie Ejercito Lopez, Jo Ramos** and **Luli Arroyo,** are the cover girls of the Philippine Tatler's first issue. Kudos to photographer **Jun de Leon** and editor **Anton San Diego**, who is also this paper's regular contributor.

Manila's high society converged during the launching of the Philippines' Tatler held last week at Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel. The guests all got their copies of Manila's latest magazine. Publishers are the troika of **Dondi Almario, Irene Martel Francisco** and **Boya Mohindar**, who owns the Tatler magazines around Asia.

It took over 20 years for Tatler to be published in the Philippines. It was worth the wait. Judging from the editorial and advertising contents, the oldest mag in the world is here to stay.

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

PUBLISHERS Dondi Almario and Boya Mohindar

LULI Arroyo and Larry Silva

CLAUDIA Bermudez

PHOTOGRAPHER Denise Weldon

IRENE Martel Francisco and Bobong Velez

TATS Manahan and Josephine Knox

JOJO and Pin Guingona

Good buys for the wise consumer

BUSY working moms like ABS-CBN news anchor Ces Oreña-Drilon, who has little time to shop, make sure their shopping journey is worth it.

"I shop only once a month for the home, but I try to make that trip *sulit*," says the host of two of today's highly watched evening programs on television, "Pipol" and "Pointblank."

Drilon's shopping maxim is to "go for practical things" for the home. With three of her four sons, she checked out recently Robinsons Department Store's "Home Savers Fair," ongoing in all RDS branches until Oct. 28, for items selling at 25-50 percent discount.

The family also looked at the items in the Special Buys shelves and gift ideas offered under the Gift with Purchases and Buy-One, Take-One promos. Drilon asked the sales staff about items she was interested in to make sure she was getting value for money.

She explained she had to go for simplicity since "it's not practical to have too many elements" with four boys running around the house. With the confession that "I like to cook. So when I shop for the house, I usually check out the kitchenware and cookware sections," Drilon also checked out kitchen items from Corningware, which are currently on sale at RDS.

For shoppers like Drilon, RDS has other special offers. Every P300 purchase (single or accumulated) in the Houseware, Home Furnishings, Gifts and Home Décor and Furniture departments at participating branches entitles a customer to one raffle coupon for a chance to win a Union Home Appliance Package. Purchases worth P1,500 or more entitles the customer to a maximum of five coupons. One winner will be chosen from each participating RDS branch during the grand raffle draw on Nov. 12. Participating RDS branches are Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Metro East, Metropolitan Star Alabang Imus, Cebu Metropolis-Alabang, Imus, Starmall Shaw and Cebu.

CES Drilon checks on colorful lamps at RDS' "Home Savers Fair."

'Iced' in Newfoundland

BY RICHARD PENNICK

WE flew into Deer Lake Newfoundland from Nova Scotia in the late afternoon, picked up our wagon, and headed straight up the west coast through the Trout River Valley and Gros Morne National Park, avoiding the many moose wandering across the highway.

After a quick stop for a "lobster" burger and chips at a small fishing village, we motored on in the gathering darkness to overnight at Rock Harbor, another small fishing village.

Sleep was disturbed by distant cannon fire, and on peering out my window at first light, I was confronted by a harbor full of slowly moving pack ice and small icebergs—even though the spring morning was quite mild.

In fact, the cannon fire was the cracking of behemoth bergs breaking up out in the Atlantic. Over a kippered herring breakfast our host was amused to note our excitement at the close proximity of the ice. Consequently, he took us out to the wharf so we could reach out and touch a berg.

Newfoundland is the place to see icebergs. The cold Labrador Current funnels them through "Iceberg Alley," the narrow band of water that teems with bergs every year.

We drove on, never tiring of the sight of each new iceberg, but took a break to visit L'Anse aux Meadows where the Norse first settled the New World and where Parks Canada has reconstructed a Viking village. We spent the night in nearby St Anthony.

Icebergs come in all shapes and sizes, and as they melt they release air bubbles that have been trapped inside for thousands of years. So when you get close enough to smell a berg, and you can smell them, your nose is picking up scents that have survived longer than the pyramids.

Spring and early summer are the best viewing seasons and the best way to see them is from a tour boat or a sea kayak. However, icebergs are unpredictable and it's not a good idea to get too close to one. A perfectly solid-looking berg may suddenly split apart or roll. If you see birds suddenly fly away from a berg they've been perched on, paddle like hell because that's a good sign the berg is about to roll. The warmer the ocean, the faster the berg melts.

CLOSE enough to touch—and smell

We followed the highway up around the tip of the windswept Great Northern Peninsula, catching glimpses of the enormous snow hare, more moose, wild cats and the comical puffin bird.

The region hosts an abundance of wildlife and is also steeped in history. In the base of an old lighthouse we were surprised to find a small museum recognizing Capt. James Cook's charting of the Newfoundland coast.

The peninsula drive offers a variety of accommodation choices in charming fishing villages. Restaurants offer seafood to die for—and beware, your hosts might have a wicked sense of humor!

We made a quick stop at Fishing Point for a last view of the icebergs before dropping the wagon at St. Johns airport and flying off "The Rock," as Newfies affectionately call their island home.

And below us, the eternal parade of icebergs.

Tuckamore Lodge of Newfoundland offers a seven-day "Backcountry/Kayaking Experience" for C$1,800 per person from St. Anthony or Deer Lake Airport. Based at the lodge, a week of kayaking adventure includes a course on kayaking for people not familiar with the sport.

Visit http://www.tuckamore-lodge.nf.net. Or call (709) 865-6361. Toll-free number: 1-888-865-6361. Fax: (709) 865-2112. E-mail: tuckamore.lodge@nf.sympatico.ca.

Brewster Tours of Canada offers "The Viking Trail," a self-drive tour from St. John's (11 days/10 nights starting at C$1,137 per person).

Visit http://www.brewster.ca, click Discovery Tours. Or call (403)762-6700. Fax: (403)762-6750. Toll-free number: 1-800-661-1152. E-mail: tours@brewster.ca.

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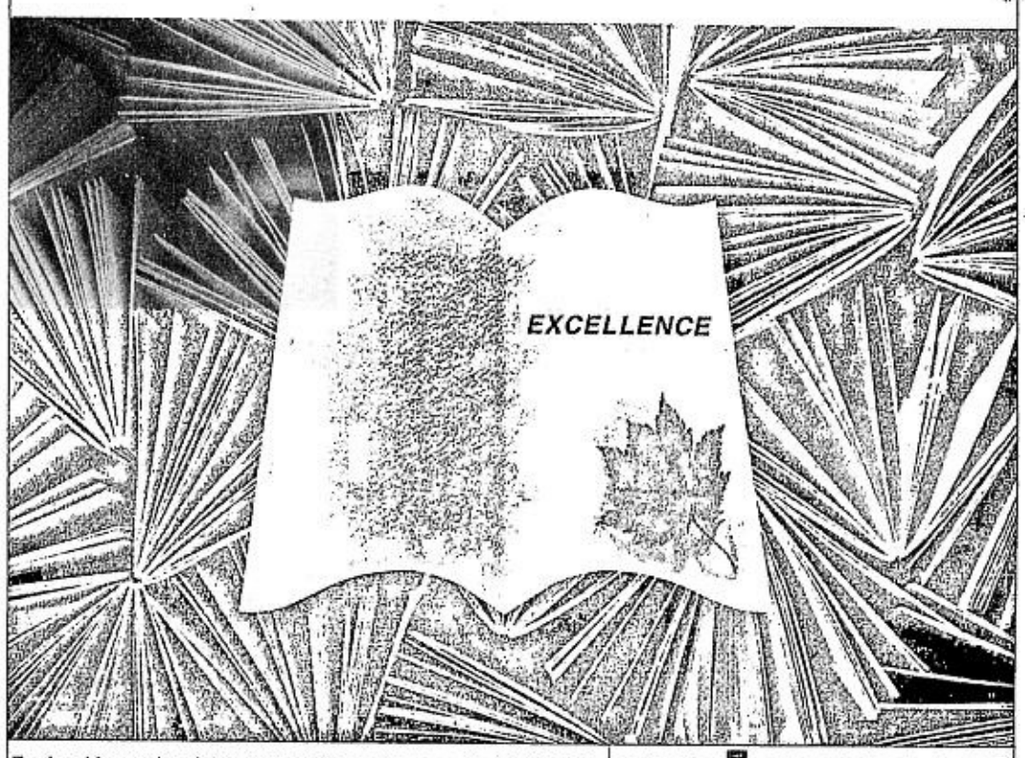

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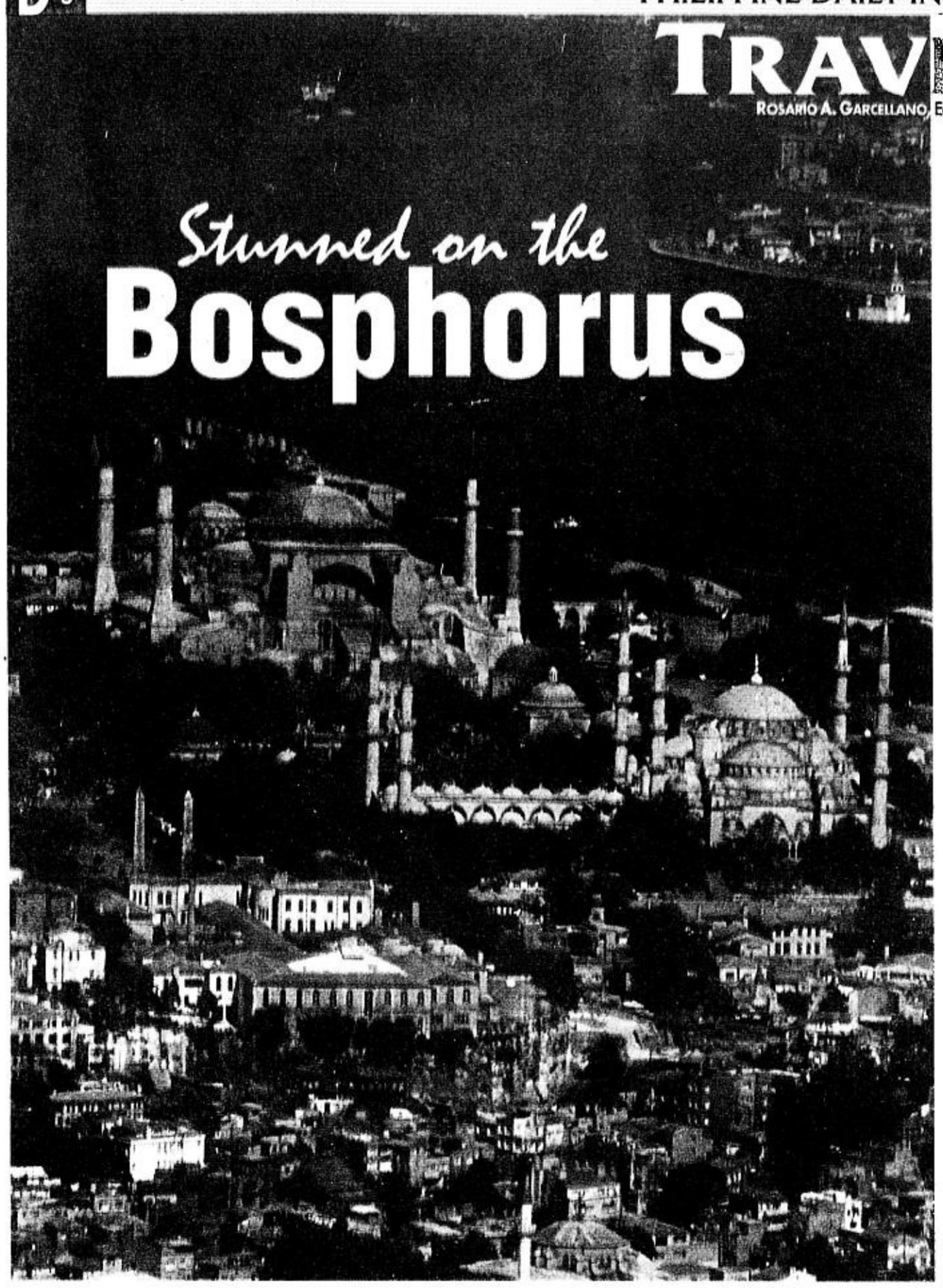
ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

Stunned on the Bosphorus



"...Set upon a golden bough to sing/
To lords and ladies of Byzantium/
Of what is past, passing, or to come."
—W.B.Yeats

BY BAMBI L. HARPER

ISTANBUL. I'm struck dumb by the sound of ancient names...the Sea of Marmara, the Dardanelles, the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. Facing the waters near the entrance to the old city of Byzantium in front of faded brick walls built by the emperor Justinian more than a millennium ago stands a bronze statue of Frederick Barbarossa crowned with a turban. All I can remember are snatches. Like Barbarossa had a red beard, but that couldn't have been his name because the guide said he was a Turkish general. Did the Venetians then give him the name? Poor Justinian—a mighty ruler, but again what comes to mind? Theodora, his wife in the famous mosaic in a church in Ravenna!

Incredibly, this is what was once called Asia Minor, the birthplace of Philip of Macedonia, ruled upon his death by his son Alexander. Would you believe King Midas was from here, as well as Santa Claus, and where the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have ascended to heaven? There is also Paul of Tarsus, far from being a favorite among women. (He was a misogynist, if ever there was one. On the other hand, he wasn't the only one to believe women were the source of most, if not all, evil: there's Ambrose, John Chrisostom and Augustine, who also had several nasty things to say about us.)

RESTORED old houses in Ortakoy converted into shops and restaurants

It isn't surprising that my mind wanders off-tangent because it is overloaded with the amount of information from the guide. Today things that have their roots here—from the tulips introduced to Holland and the cherries introduced to the Romans, who planted them throughout their empire, to the popularity of yogurt and the first beauty contest ever—overwhelm.

Istanbul is a modern megacity of 15 million inhabitants, where glass-and-steel buildings jostle with ancient mosques, combining the flavors of Asia and Europe with the scent of peaches and coffee, roasting lamb and saffron borne on the breeze from the Bosphorus. McDonald's has come to Istanbul, as well as Burger King, but *shawarma* shops hold their own—and from the hundreds of food stalls selling native dishes, I guess it was the Arabs who must have introduced the concept to bone-weary traders. From varieties of salads, to huge pancakes stuffed with goat cheese and spinach called *gozlema*, to baked potatoes mixed with *bulgar* puree and fiery red chillies, to Turkish coffee (did espresso originate from it, or vice versa?), and the best pistacchio ice cream I've tasted in years, it's a good way to be introduced to Turkish cuisine.

A myriad confectioner's shops dazzle the eyes, with sweets called Turkish delight. And at all hours—for the Turks must have a sweet tooth—you see customers sipping coffee and digging into *baklavas*, chewy orange, cherry or lemon squares boiled in honey and sprinkled with sugar.

No doubt, more sophisticated stuff is available at more elegant establishments. In a restaurant by the Bosphorus catering to customers from the Topkapi Palace was laid out a buffet of more than 20 dishes—all with incomprehensible names. The *maitre d'* was obviously trained to answer dumb questions like mine, which amounted to "What's that?"

Aside from the *shiskebabs* (you can have chicken, lamb or beef, or mixed) that always comes with tomato rice or sometimes curry rice, if you are a lamb lover you would be in heaven. You can order it baked, roasted, fried—or pureed! Mine were thin layers wrapped with slices of eggplant (aubergine to them) and baked in a fine creamy tomato sauce.

On the first day we were taken to a mosque constructed half a millennium ago that had rooms in its courtyard for travelers. These have been converted into dining rooms for tourists, where the meal started with *meze*—humus and *dolmas* that are stuffed vegetables like tomatoes, eggplants or peppers with rice and beans. There were fiery green peppers and fresh pickles, a lentil soup with tomatoes and, of course, the inevitable *kebab* for the tourist who is not a vegetarian.

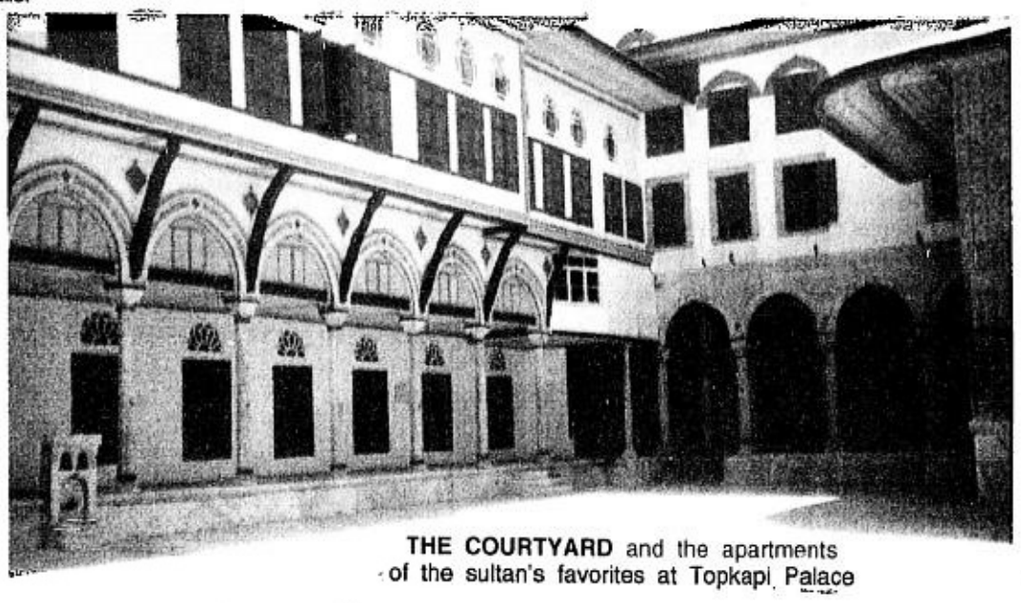
The favorite place of any Filipino woman would probably be the Grand Bazaar, the origin of the mall concept, dating back thousands of years (the concept, that is, the bazaar itself being only 650 years old). My friends from Lebanon tell me the one at Damascus is the oldest in the world, except that the region is not exactly a tourist destination these days.

The Grand Bazaar is exactly that: grand, with 3,500 shops, 64 alleys, 22 entrances and 25,000 workers. You can find all sorts of fake name-brand bags, silk scarves and antiques, but there's also gold and silver jewelry, Kilim carpets and a plethora of brassware.

The mind deals with simple facts because it finds it difficult to absorb the fact that one is standing on a spot where the Hittites, the Ionians, the Lydians, the Persians, the Byzantines, the Seljuks, the Romans, and the Ottomans once ruled. It's a heady experience. One sees the artifacts at the Museum of Antiquities and one can understand why there is a black market for them. Any modern museum curator would commit mayhem (and has) to get his hands on even one Greek Kouro. Observe the Getty in Los Angeles and compare its exhibits with the statuary and carvings standing under birch trees on the grounds. There is so much the museum buildings cannot house and now serve as décor for an outdoor café!

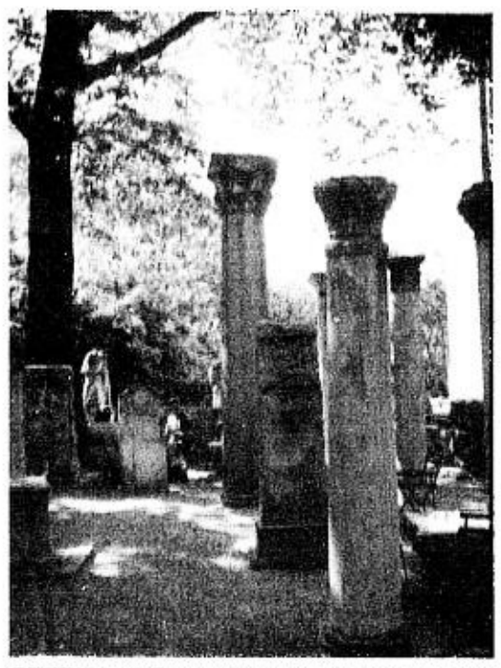
The Turkish government is still trying to recover artifacts that a German adventurer named Schliemann smuggled out of the country, believing he had discovered the gold of Troy and the site of that ancient battle (1871-1890). It is now believed that it was not Troy that was discovered but an ancient Anatolian city.

In the end only a few outstanding buildings or works of art can be seen, and only a few great men are remembered, no matter how much one travels. Even with a liberal education, one retains only so much. How much worse it must be for those who no longer have to study world history or world literature. Will the Mall of America someday be the benchmark of our civilization?

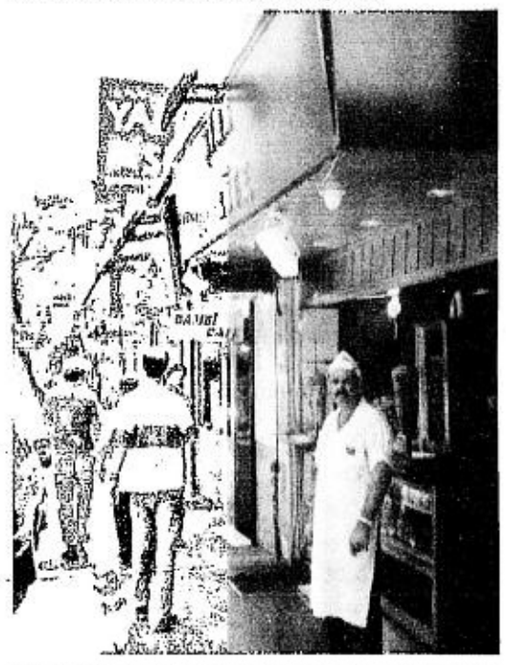


THE COURTYARD and the apartments of the sultan's favorites at Topkapi Palace

The eye is dazzled, the mind is overloaded with detail. The artifacts show why there is a black market for them



GREEK and Roman statuary adorning a park café at the Museum of Antiquities



FINDING oneself on Istiklal Street in Taksim

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Fall shopping

KOREAN national carrier Asiana Airlines has prepared tour packages especially suited for Christmas shopping this fall.

Filipino travelers have a choice of accommodations and tour inclusions to suit their time and budget starting at $507. The Seoul tours include the city's main attractions, from historical sites and museums to shopping outlets. Guides are friendly and well informed, and communicate well in English and Japanese. Special incentive programs include discounts on hotel, restaurant, shopping, recreation, sightseeing and transportation rates.

Come winter, adventurous tourists will also have their pick of ski packages.

Asiana Airlines, Air Transport World's passenger service awardee for this year and the only ISO-quality certified Korean carrier, flies from Seoul to 45 destinations around the world. For more information, call 892-5681 to 88.

Recycling program

TRADERS Hotel Manila (THM) on Roxas Boulevard recently launched its recycling program, a project that its general manager Juan Carlos Diago earlier initiated in Bangkok, Rio de Janeiro and Makati Shangri-La.

"The program is ongoing and the results are absolutely incredible. It does not only protect Mother Earth but also generates revenues," Diago said.

With Makati Shangri-La the leading hotel in the industry for the project, it is hoped that THM will be the corresponding leader in the bay area, he said.

The two hotels are managed by Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts.

'Service plus'

THE RICHMONDE Hotel in Ortigas Center recently launched "Service Plus," a customer service training program for both its leaders and frontline employees.

The program is aimed at enhancing Richmonde's quality service, which will set it apart from its competitors.

For inquiries, call 638-7777 or visit www.richmondehotel.com.

'Layag'

MONTENEGRO Shipping Lines (MSL) has launched Layag, the first on-board shipping comics magazine, in an effort to contribute to the enhancement of domestic tourism in the Southern Luzon provinces where its vessels operate.

The launch was held Oct. 10 at the Batangas International Port Terminal II in Batangas City, attended by officials of the provincial and city governments, members of the Philippine Coast Guard, and MSL officers and employees.

The Pusong Montenegro Privilege Card, which entitles loyal passengers to discounted fares, express ticket purchase and other benefits was also launched.

Layag will be distributed free of charge to all MSL passengers. It carries illustrated serials for general reading and regular features on tourism, the maritime industry, corporate news, a "kiddie fun" page and stories of romance that happen at sea.

At the launch, MSL general manager Vicente "Guy" Montenegro Jr. lauded the staff for the great leap that the company had made since it was founded by his father in 1967. MSL chair Carmelita Montenegro and Abra de Ilog Mayor Meg Montenegro thanked those who had supported the company throughout the years.

The MSL started operations with three wooden-hulled vessels. Since then, it has grown to a modern fleet of 16 steel-hulled vessels and a tugboat acquired last year. From only four ports of call, it now provides regular services to the ports of Dalahican in Quezon, Calapan City in Mindoro Oriental, Sablayan in Mindoro Occidental, Mogpog in Marinduque, Odiongan in Romblon, Pilar in Sorsogon, and Masbate.

Halloween treats

YOU can stay a night in a deluxe room at the New World Renaissance Hotel during the long Halloween weekend for P1,999++.

And you get perks including daily newspapers and guarded parking space as well as complimentary use of the Fitness Center, sauna and swimming pool.

Stay another night or book another room for P499++. Thereafter, the third night or room booked will be at P1,999++ and the fourth night or room will be at P499++.

These special rates are valid on Oct. 30-Nov. 4 and subject to 10-percent service charge and prevailing government tax. For more information or reservations, call 811-6888 ext. 3700.

* * *

Take your kids "Trick or Treatin" on Oct. 31 to the Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

All kids up to age 15 are invited. Special prizes await those wearing the most unique Halloween costume. Assembly time is 4:30 p.m. at the Marimar (near hotel lobby).

Other party animals can dance the night away with ghosts, goblins and witches at Island Cove's Halloween Disco Party at the Purple Ostrich Café, Bar and Disco on Nov. 3 at 9 p.m.

Those with the most outrageous Halloween costumes get to take home a limited supply of special prizes.

For details, call (046) 434-0210 or (02) 810-3740/810-5351 (Makati Sales Office). Toll-free numbers are 810-3718; 810-3732.

Or visit www.islandcovephil.com or e-mail islacove@info.com.ph

DISCOVERY TRIP

Santa Maria Church, recognized by Unesco as one of the world's cultural treasures, is among the wonders to be discovered in a trip set on Nov. 2-4 under the auspices of the Kalipunan ng mga Asosasyon para sa Ikauunlad ng Vigan at Kapalgiran (or Kaivigan). The trip includes lodging in a Spanish-style inn, arts and crafts demonstrations, and visits to other Unesco-recognized sites as well as edifices closed to public viewing. To book, call Kaivigan at 912-5618 or visit its office at the Earthlite Center, COD Department Store Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Booking deadline is Oct. 26.

Best-selling coffee-table book portrays unique characters

(From page D8)

on your face." If it happens to someone you don't like, you just have to laugh. But what if it's you? It happened to me more than once. I was at a party and people began to stare. You think it was because of the weight you lost or the new shirt you donned. You go to the john and see the biggest bat alive! It's so embarrassing, you think aloud. I wondered at what time it got there. Was it when I was flirting with this person or trying to talk about the WTC or anthrax dilemma with this person? You go back to the party as if nothing happened. In your mind, you know that people are saying, "I am so glad he took that '*kulangot*' out. It's too much of an obstacle to our conversation." These things happen. Just pray it does not happen to you. And make sure that you have good friends who can tell such private matters.

Back at the bat cave, I mean Palace, I did not have the nerve to tell the person, I was just too embarrassed. As he moved along to speak to dignitaries and VIPs, I just cringed. I was helpless. I just hoped that he had a friend to tell him about the bat in his cave.

TNT tidbits. More than a Cinderella story. True love still exists even if two persons don't have the same social background. The crown **Prince Haakon** of Norway has wed a commoner, **Mette-Marit Hoiby**. A lot of Norwegians raised their eyebrows when the prince married the latter. Why? She is a former waitress, has a son out of wedlock and her ex-boyfriend has been convicted on drug charges. It's nice to know that true love triumphs in the end. Sigh! But did she have to wear white?

More wicked, more cream. Halloween is just around the corner and besides doing the same old thing, why don't you have a real good time by attending the 2nd Annual Cream Halloween Ball on Oct. 27 at Planet Rock, Amorsolo Street, Makati. Cream is the world's No. 1 super club from the UK. This year's event promises to be bigger, better and more wicked. Tickets will be available at the gate. Party starts at 10 p.m.

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo vda. de Pendelton. More Q&A's. This week, our favorite ex-Mare and socialite goes the route of Dear Abby for the last time. She realized that she needs more help than those she's been helping. Enjoy!

Question 1—Bali high. Dear Constance, I was just at Batavia in Malate and fell in love with its Balinese style. I want to redecorate my home in this style. What stores can I go to and what should I buy? Always, Robin.

*My poor darling! First of all, what were you doing at Batavia? Batavia is a lot of things but it is hardly the epitome of style, much less Balinese style. Moreover, quite apart from the Amans, that Balinese/Thai style you speak of is so five years ago! Even allowing for Manila's standard three to four year lag, it is so last year. This year, it's all about a return to the traditional. So, if you're someone like me, think **Billy Baldwin**, think **Sister Parrish** or, if you're in an Asian kind of mood, think about returning to traditional Philippine style. Think Vigan, darling, and be happy.*

Question 2—Culture vulture. Dear Mrs. Pendelton, I have recently come into much money and I am now trying to be a part of high society as befits my new station in life. I have even joined the Friends of the CCP. I am now thinking of changing my look, which was very *tiangge*-based. Should I go the imeldific big hair route or should I go simple like President GMA? Always, Zeny.

Darling Zeny, Your new station in life? My poor baby. Station does not derive purely from money and if I am reading you correctly, you certainly should not join the Friends of the CCP for all the wrong reasons—in this case, to prove you have "arrived." One should join a civic organization because one believes in its values and its mission.

*Over the past week, I was lucky enough to be invited to two events sponsored by the Instituto Cervantes. One was a concert of contemporary Spanish songs (not Guantamera, thank you very much) as performed by **Eugenia Echarren** and the other was a program of Spanish and Latin American Guitar Music as performed by **Armando Orbon**. Both were spectacular and even better and were free to the general public. The first concert was, unfortunately, sparsely attended but the second was packed with people who went because they either appreciated the music or because they wished to broaden their artistic horizons.*

In New York, one tends to get this kind of audience—people who love and appreciate the performer and the performance. What a relief it was to see this! For once, perhaps because it was free, I did not see a single person who went to show off a new frock or bombilya jewelry—as I'm sure you do. My point is that if you have in fact joined the Friends of the CCP, make sure you are there because of the arts and not because you need a venue to announce your arrival.

As to your "look," you obviously have not been reading my column for very long. If you did, you would know that I find nothing wrong with the "tiangge." In fact, I find it quite honest and truly stylish. Darling Zeny, stick to your own style. Don't try to look like Imelda because you will never be so fabulous. And don't try to look like President GMA because you are not the president, because when you are, everything you wear will look fabulous. Dress for yourself, not for others, and certainly not to show you have "arrived." It may be awful—but it is you. Love C.

P.S. If you truly wish to find your own style—I am perfectly happy to have you worship at my feet and learn a thing or two—with the proper compensation of course! By the way, how much is "much money?" E-mail me.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

ROYAL BLISS. The future king and queen of Norway. He is of noble birth and she was once a waitress. Can love be found?

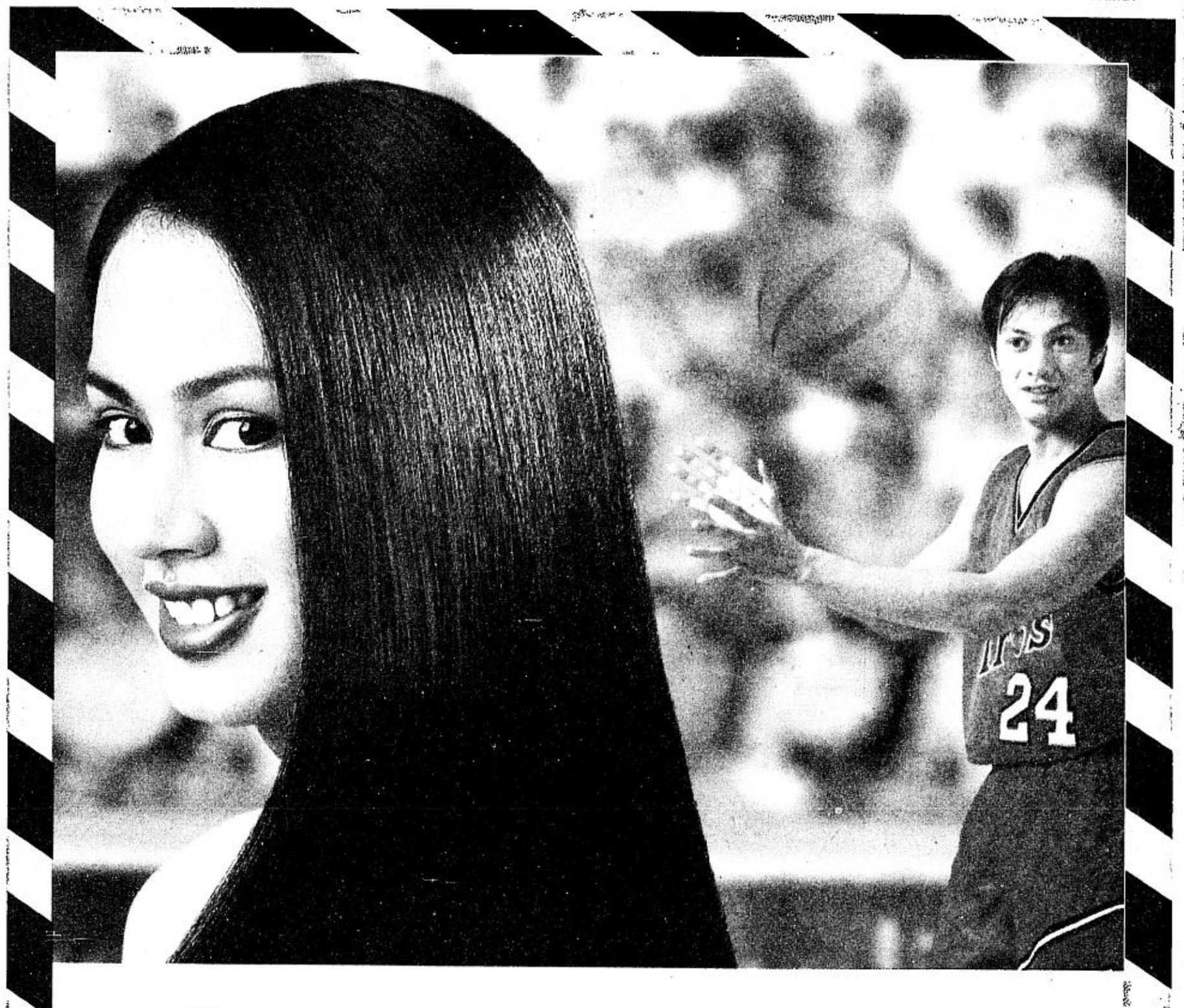
Laundry franchise program launched

CYBERLAUNDRY, the first laundry business that offers a combination of laundry and business services to its clientele, formally launched its franchise program with a party on Aug. 4 at the National Sports Grill, Greenbelt, Makati.

"Franchising is the way CyberLaundry wants to expand its business. Our multirevenue-generating products and services provide the entrepreneur with more growth potential in a dynamic environment and faster return on his investment," says Eric Caeg, the maverick behind the CyberyLaundry Concept.

Guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner buffet, followed with a raffle draw hosted by Tina Diaz de Rivera and Jaime Garchitorena. The highlight of the event was an audiovisual presentation of the business concept and benefits of being a CyberLaundry franchisee.

To complement CyberLaundry's unique business concept, the night also ushered in the laundry shop's formal entry to the Web via the launching of its website. Interested franchisees and customers can log on to their website at www.cyberlaundry.com.ph. The launch also featured the CyberLaundry-Promocentral discount card and the Community Talk (the official newsletter of CyberLaundry).



Best-selling coffee-table book portrays unique characters

Trends & Trendings

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-HAVE book—"Patrick Rosas' Images." The talk of the town, a collaboration between topnotch makeup guru **Patrick Rosas** and talented photographer **Jun de Leon**, has made a lot of tongues wagging. It's nice to know that books like this can become a bestseller. This was evident during the RCBC launch, which was well attended.

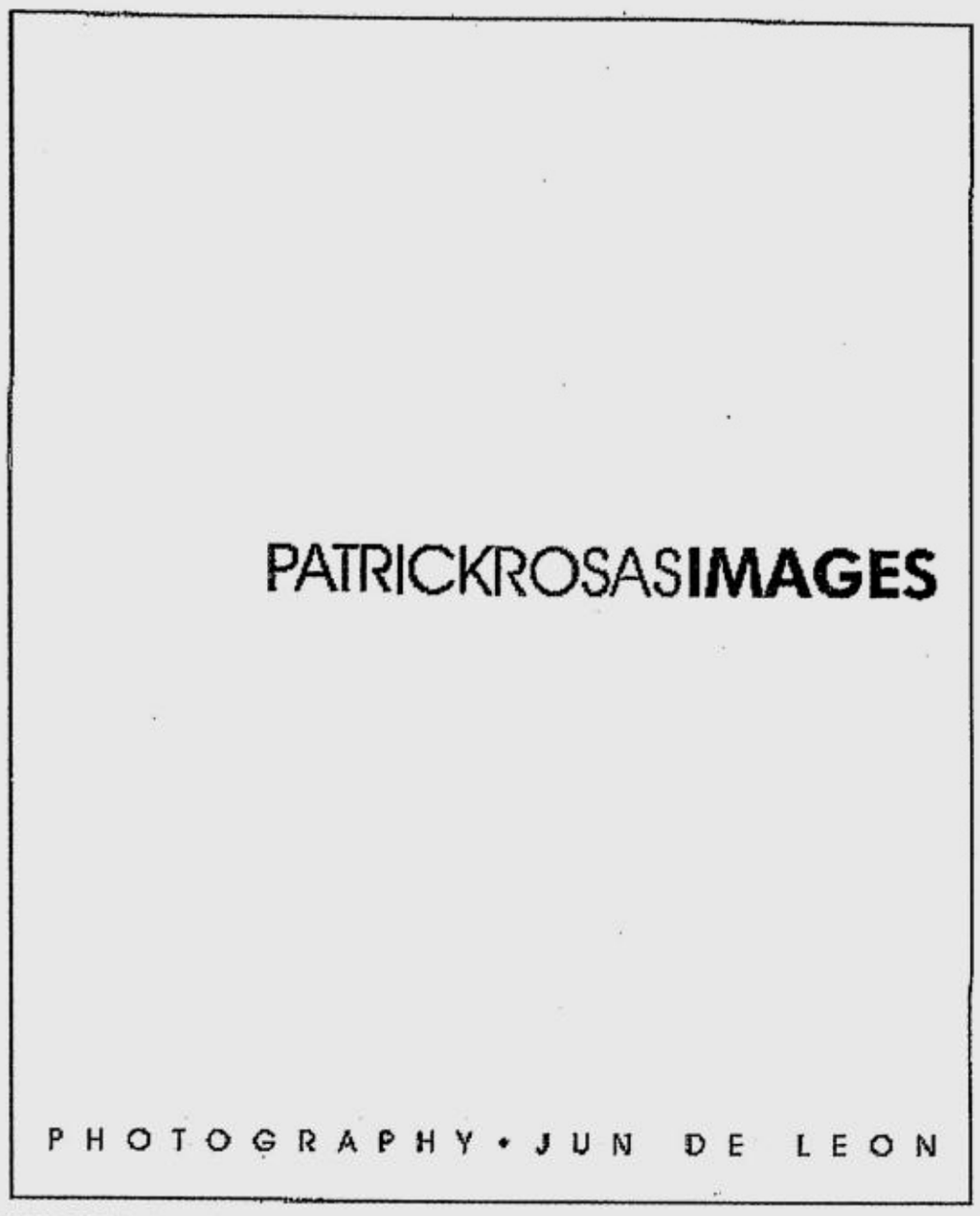
It was nice to see in one book some of Manila's personalities, celebrities and socialites. During the launch people kept asking each other which photograph they thought was the best. The way I see it, each photograph had its own uniqueness and character. Those who posed sans fanfare were also exquisite. I love **Josine Elizalde**'s photograph. It was daring and beautiful!

"Images" is available at all bookstores. You can also call **Cecille** at 523-9563. I am sure that this will be the start of more artistic endeavors in the future.

Bats in the cave. Picture this: You are in Malacañang Palace for a formal event when you strike a conversation with a high-ranking official. You comment on the wonderful work he is doing and you realize that person has a bat in his nose. What do you do? Do you stare (too gross), look at the floor (too obvious) or just leave it, as if what he has is part of his accessory for the evening. This is what happened to me last week when I was invited to the send-off party for the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra held at the Palace. What did I do? I just ignored it. I thought it was rude of me to tell him but somehow it got me thinking. If caught in a situation like that, what would be the plan of action?

In most cases, if I know the person very well, I tell him. One can tell who his true friends are when they can tell you that an "alien has landed

BEST-SELLING/ p.D7



"IMAGES" by Patrick Rosas—the Filipino coffee-table book to have this year

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- Flexible memory allocation
- Mobile Internet access (WAP 1.2)
- One touch silent and keypad lock

*network dependent

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The ME45: All-weather resistant.

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- OverThe Air (OTA) downloading of ringer melodies, logos and screensavers*
- Enhanced Messaging Service (EMS): Send/receive pictures and melodies
- GPRS for faster data access
- Improved water, dust and shock resistance compared to conventional phones
- Full featured address book (500 contact names with 14 entries each)
- Extended organizer (appointments, notes, task lists)
- Microsoft Outlook® synchronization
- Flexible memory allocation
- Mobile Internet access (WAP 1.2)
- One touch silent and keypad lock

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COMMISSIONER LUZVIMINDA TANCANGCO

The Comelec's odd woman out

LUZVIMINDA G. Tancangco eats elections for breakfast. The most visible—and talkative—woman of the Commission on Elections (she's the only woman, in fact) is an academic and scholar who has made elections her lifelong work. For her doctorate studies at the University of Amsterdam, she specialized on psephology or election studies. As a faculty member of the UP College of Public Administration, she acquired a reputation for her sometimes controversial studies on Philippine elections, which she feels have gone from bad to worse since the 1984 Batasang Pambansa elections. As Comelec member in charge of the modernization and computerization of elections, she has been accused of stonewalling. But as Tancangco points out, she is merely doing her job. She explains modernization should strike at the root of the country's election problem: the cleansing of the voters list, not the automation of the balloting.

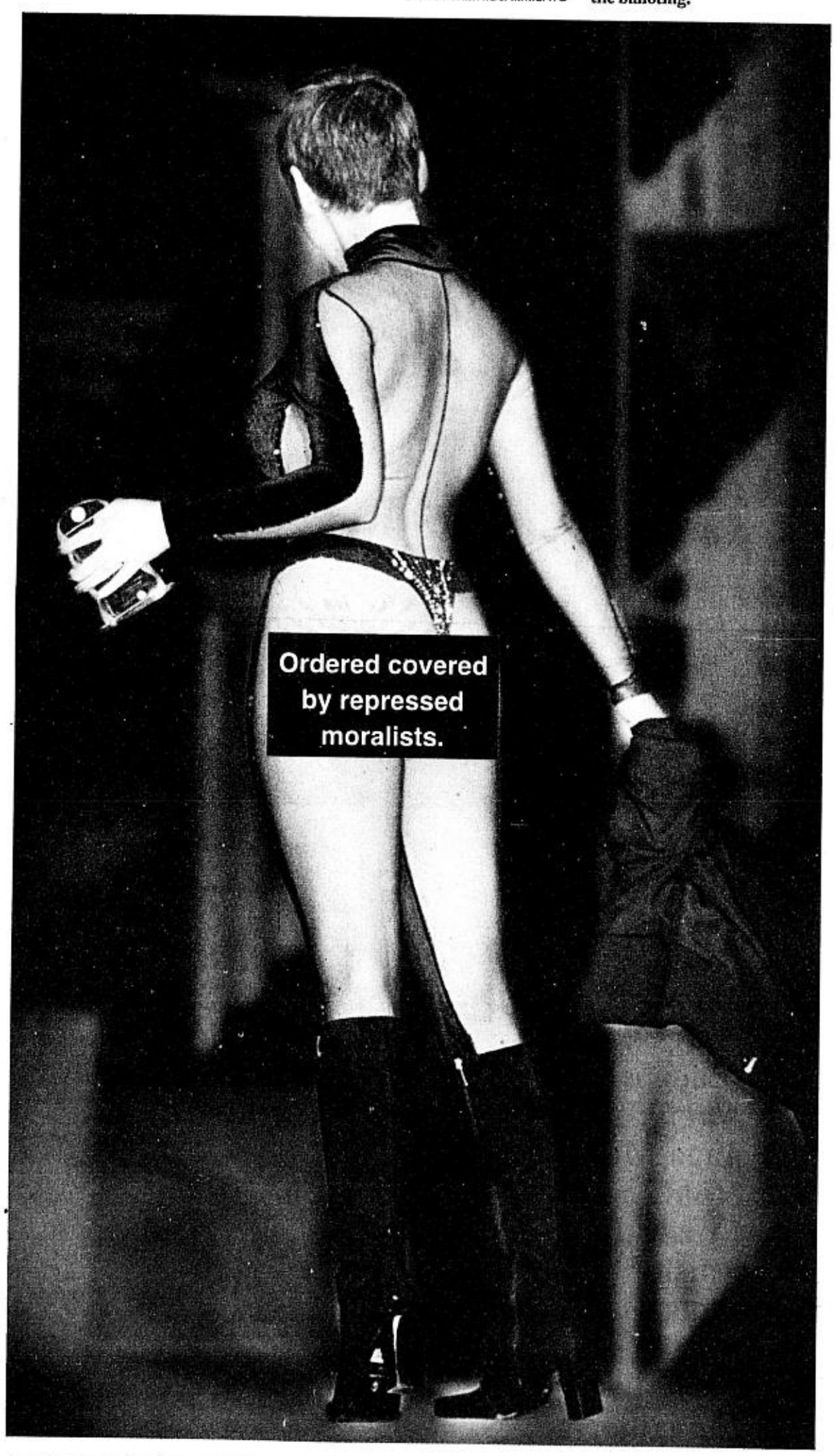
PLAYTIME

By the staff

Recently, she was again on the front page for casting doubt on the proclamation of Sen. Ralph Recto, her former student, as the 12th senator who will serve a full six-year term. She says the mathematics that went into the proclamation was tenuous at best and pointed to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo as the one who "tricked" the Commission into proclaiming the winning senators without regard for their placing and the

THE COMELEC'S/ p.E2

'We must have honest elections. If you have fraudulent elections, the functions of representation, legitimacy and accountability are not there'



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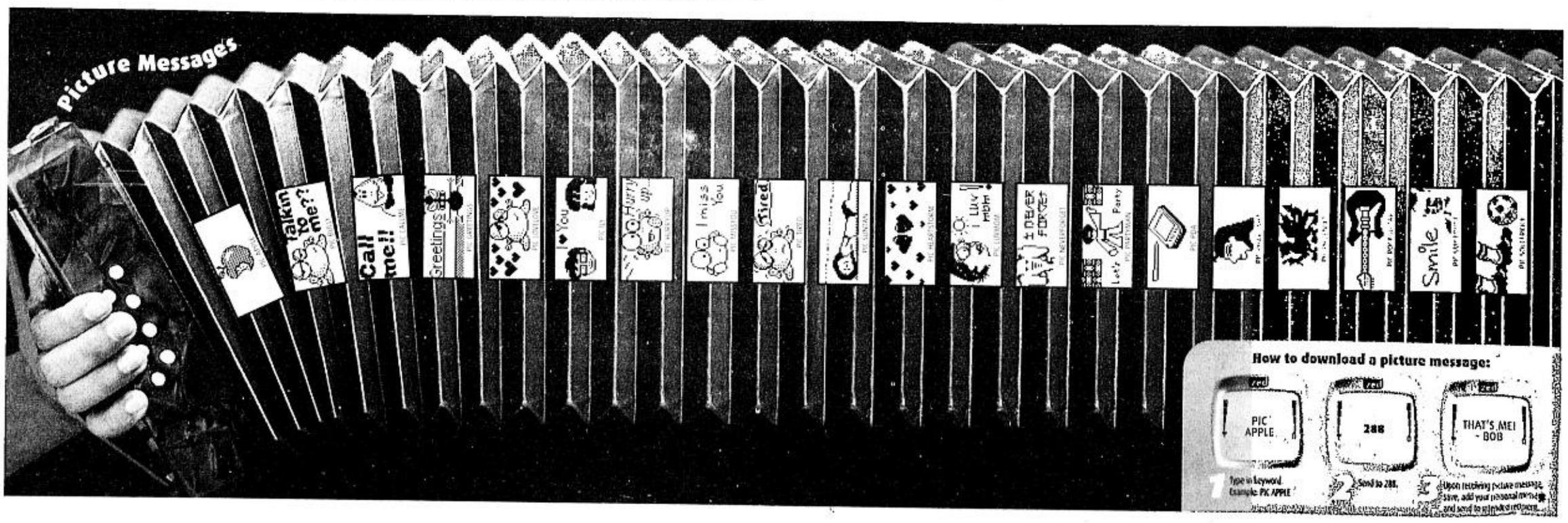

The Comelec's odd woman out

(From page E1)

vote count.

A woman who does not flinch at controversies, Tancangco was fighting off reports she had over P3 million in unliquidated cash advances when Playtime interviewed her. She came prepared, even bringing a white board to make a full accounting. Like a true teacher, she itemized her expenses and showed she had liquidated all of the expenses attributed to her, save for P150,000.

Tancangco said the report was selective. For example, for the general registration of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao last December, her cash advance of P3.3 million was listed as unliquidated. But the same report was mum on the P4 million of the other commissioner who monitored the registration, Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain. Since the cutoff date of the report was Dec. 31, 2000, or four days after the registration, "can you consider that as unliquidated cash advance?"

Curiously, Tancangco said that the latest cutoff—June 2001—was not included in the report because it would show that she had liquidated all of her cash advances while the rest had not. She said that since the misleading report was certified by the Comelec's financial services division, she told the head to correct it. "*Kasi 'pag inulit mo 'yung ginawa mo*, I will take administrative and legal action against you because you're putting certain things which are so inaccurate," she told the officer. "'*Wag kang pagagamit*."

Her passion for elections is such that it sometimes brims and spills over. But Tancangco insists that elections are the lynchpin of democracy; they ascertain the will of the people so that the passion that takes to determine it is never wasted. Some sectors see her as obsessive and quarrelsome. At the least, she says she is ready to defend the positions she has taken if only to have an honest to goodness discussion on what ails the Philippine electoral system.

You seem to have a reputation of being a combative, some say quarrelsome, commissioner. To what could you attribute this?

Probably Filipinos expect their women to be always mothering, nurturing type. But I'm very articulate and vocal. I don't hold back what I think, especially if I feel strongly on certain things. I can't help to be silent.

You seem to have taken on certain divisive issues like modernization and the proclamation of the last Senate batch, and you seem not to agree most of the time with Chairman (Alfredo) Benipayo.

I must be clear on this. When I disagree, you can bet there is an underlying principle. I don't quarrel for the sake of quarreling. I don't enjoy quarreling. Like you, I think we want to have peace. But at the same time we cannot always *naman* have peace at the expense of what's right and the principles or the values we cherish, not just as individuals but also as professionals and concerned citizens. For instance, you said that modernization and the proclamation of senators are divisive issues. To me these are very crucial issues. Very crucial especially in the Commission on Elections because here we are trying to address the sources of fraud through modernization. Now, if you modernize, introduce technologies which are inappropriate, which do not address the problems and instead try to be more sophisticated in hiding the fraud. My God, I don't care if they will label me as the most controversial person if I had to fight for the correct modernization program. In the same way that I will have to speak my piece if they're proclaiming senators without really completing the count, without really knowing whether the count is accurate or not. So, what would you expect? A Commission that is united in its apparent face, but deep inside, there is conspiracy? Or a Commission that shows dissension based on certain principles. That's democracy, *di ba*?

What's the correct modernization program then?

A correct modernization program should first address the sources of the problems. And what are these problems in our electoral system? First, you and I see how confused voters are during election day, *di ba*? You and I know or complain that people who are in the list cannot vote when they come to the polling centers because others have voted for them. Dead people are still in the list. So I think that should be the starting point. Because what is election? *Di ba* be all and end all *nyan ay mga tao* whose will we want to ascertain. So it's just proper to start with this problem. If we are to modernize we want to make it easy for our voters to register, make it easy for our political parties to verify and check the voters lists and to ensure that those who are in the list are legitimate voters and that they can verify whether these are spurious or warm bodies, real existing voters.

***Pero* I'm very sure Chairman Benipayo and the Namfrel agree with that.**

Alam mo, agreeing to a motherhood statement like cleansing the voters' list is different from the actual solution you are taking. What are the solutions that probably Chairman Benipayo and Joecon (Jose Concepcion of Namfrel) would be advocating? Computerization of the voters' lists without a real honest-to-goodness cleansing. *Ayaw nila ng* mapping, which would show very clearly the territorial boundaries of the precincts, *na* in this precinct for instance there are 200 voters, because the limit is 200, *gusto nila halo-halo*, based on surnames. It's very difficult. And that is not only difficult but also illegal because the law says that it should be territorial. And there you will find out up to what extent there is a lip service to a cause and how much sincerity is there in the solution.

You seemed determined to make life difficult for Namfrel in the last election?

I think they're just overreacting, *eh*. Because I was actually voting for its accreditation as a citizen's arm. I just think that they have to demonstrate clearly the procedures because I had seen their procedures in '84, '86, '87.

And you were not happy with their procedures.

And I was not happy. Because no less than the reports of the American observers group, international observers group had stated that there was abuse in the counting if you don't take into consideration the exact sources of the count. But now, you will never know whether these figures that we are canvassing are coming from legitimate precincts. You will never know whether there are precincts whose results have been counted twice. You will never know that there are results in precincts, which have not been counted, or substituted with the others. For me, we have not learned that lesson. The past elections, especially the '84 and '86, are the most documented elections, and I have the advantage of that continuity of study so I can compare. We are not progressing much from there.

But isn't it that the Namfrel counting comes from the precincts during the election?

Precisely. And that's why it would not have been very difficult for them to give us a report, *di ba*? *E* computerized *din sila* suppose to be, *di ba*? So there should be no question.

Do you think that the Namfrel has been biased since 1984?

I have had my experience with them. *Ang* feeling *ko* if they can make something out of you or use you, they'll be good [to you]. But if you have outlived your usefulness, *wala ka na*.

For whom are they working?

Well, for themselves, first of all.

How about the CIA?

Alam mo ang tingin ko diyan, lahat tayo, lahat ng grupo meron namang link, *eh, di ba*, to outside forces? But I would suppose that the overriding interests that they represent are theirs.

Their interests are big business.

You said it.

Or the Church?

Well, I don't know if the Church can be seen as a whole because there are also different groups within the Church. Probably some groups whom they can manipulate or make them believe their cause. But there are also priests and nuns who believe in me also. The Church is not monolithic.

You said that Chairman Benipayo fooled the commission into proclaiming the 13 senators.

Not fooled, *parang* he made a trick out of us. "Okay, *sige magpo*-proclaim *na tayo* because anyway, these 13 senators would not be affected." "*O sige, pero may mga* petitions for corrections." "So '*di wala tayong* rankings." For my part, I don't like that. I think before we make any proclamation of winners, we must be able to have complete data to ascertain exactly the number of voters who have registered, the number of those who actually voted, the number of precincts that functioned and submitted their results and the number of votes that a candidate has garnered. *Para sa akin walang* proclama-

THE COMELEC'S/p.E5

Were you ever engaged?
Yes *naman.*
(Laughter)
Sino 'to? (Laughter)
'Wag na lang.
(Laughs)
***Nagba*-blush *kayo*.**
Taga-Mindanao.
***Hindi naman* Muslim?**
Muslim. (Laughter)
Siguro if I were ever reincarnated I would be a Muslim princess.
(Laughter)

PNU hosts annual convention of English teachers

THE COUNCIL of Department Chairpersons for English (CDCE) will hold its 18th annual convention on Oct. 24-26 at the auditorium of the Philippine National University (PNU). Theme of the convention is "The English Department in the 21st Century: Quo Vadis?"

The keynote address will be delivered by Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC, former education secretary and current academic vice president of De la Salle University. Other speakers are Dr. Venancio Mendiola of PNU ("Management and Assessment of the English Department"), Dr. Emma Castillo of the Philippine Center for Education Research ("Preparing Exit Exam for English Majors"), Dr. Lourdes Bautista of DLSU ("Philippine English and the Teaching of Grammar"), Dr. Leticia Atienza of the Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute on Science and Technology ("Evaluating Teaching Performance"), Dr. Angela Sarile of the Commission on Higher Education ("Language Teaching: Child Profile"), Dr. Clemencia Espiritu of PNU ("Issues in Bilingualism"), Lito Zulueta of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Center for Creative Writing and Studies ("The English Teacher as Creative Writer"), and National Artist F. Sionil Jose ("The Creative Writer as Historian").

To welcome the delegates are PNU president Lilia Garcia and Dr. Milagros Tanlayco, CDCE president and chair of the languages and literature program of the UST Graduate School.

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GMA gives P5M to Red Cross

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has given P5 million to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) for its various humanitarian activities.

Following the President's gesture, the Red Cross' board of governors, headed by chair Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, called on the President in Malacañang to thank her not only for the donation but for other expressions of support.

Through a taped message for radio and television, the President also asked for public support to the PNRC, in particular, and to its Millennium Miss Philippine Red Cross, a special fund-raising event co-chaired by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Special Presidential Assistant and volunteer leader Margarita "'Ting Ting" Cojuangco.

The President's donation will go into such activities as blood program, disaster preparedness and relief, and health and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable.

Leading personalities have already volunteered for the Millennium Miss Philippine Red Cross contest's pre-crowning and coronation events like Maria Montelibano, Behn Cervantes, Rene Salud and Ben Farrales.

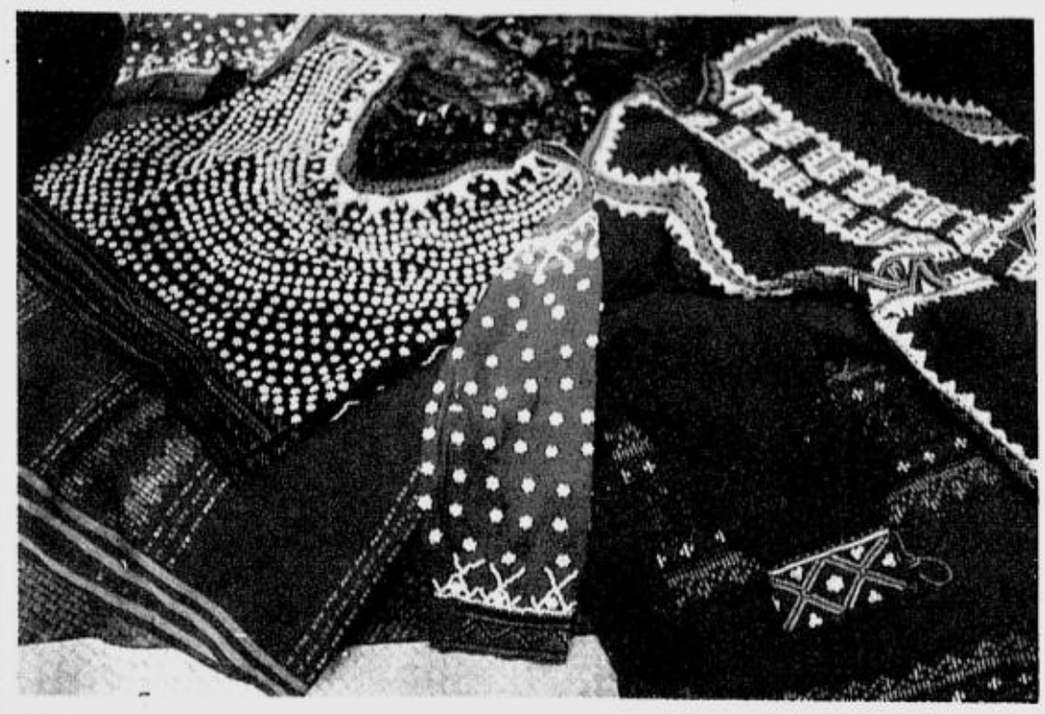
Participants will be billeted at the Manila Hotel, the venue for all activities. Coronation night is on Dec. 5.

Donations of blood, cash and kind to the PNRC can be made through tel. no. 527-8384.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo with PNRC Gov. Menardo Jimenez, Gov. Leonida "Baby" Ortiz, Gov. Pricess Diamond J. Pangarungan, Gov. Rosa Rosal and Gov. Lina Aurelio

PNRC Governors Lorna Kapunan, Lina Aurelio, Rosa Rosal, chair Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, Millennium Miss PNRC 2001 chair TingTing Cojuangco, and PNRC secretary general Lourdes Loyola

PNRC Gov. Mario Nery and Gov. Rosa Rosal



IKAT and other weaves

Lorna Montilla's arts and artifacts on sale

LORNA R. Montilla's collection of art and artifacts, such as antique heirloom and excavated jewelry, has been on sale since Oct. 15. The sale will continue until Oct. 30.

A collection that spanned more than 20 years of her life, the artist is opening her vast collection to art and antique collectors interested in highland art.

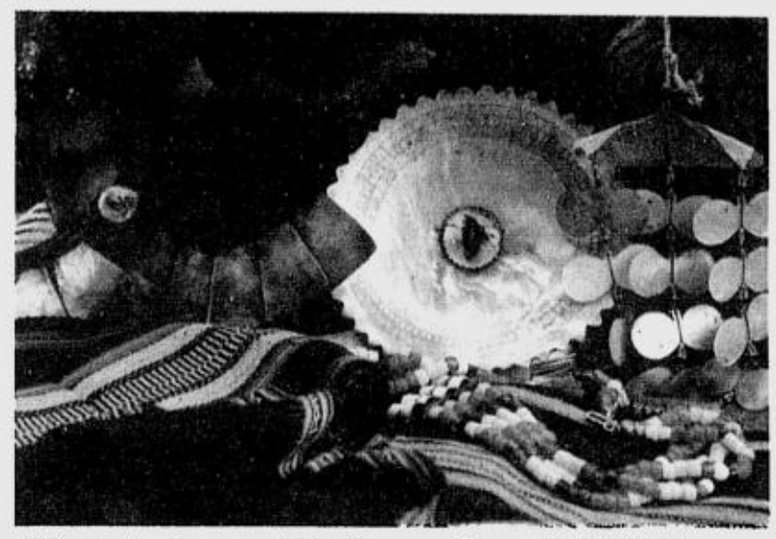
Most of these include complete Ifugao, Kalinga, Gaddang and Isneg costumes, beads, baskets and blankets, antique ritual jars as well as solid pieces of precious *bulol* or rice granary gods.

From Mindanao, there are old *malongs* with many textures and designs including *sutra* (pure silk) and *sinanturan* or plaids of many colors. An antique Maranao *amor* (raban) made from tempered bronze and ornately inlaid with silver, highlights the sale.

Ikat weaves from the Bagobo, Mandaya and T'boli areas are also pieces collectors will not pass up. Old Tausog embroidered pieces that Lorna fondly treasures are included at discounted prices.

Call 411-1542 or e-mail lormonti@ netscape.net.

MINDANAO ethnic fabric



MARANAO bronze works

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HINT: Check out *Arts/Design of Lifestyle Section* on Monday, October 22 for My Wish Box.

Are Gordon . . .

(From page E8)

of the same entitlements and courtesies befitting a former president of the CCP. This, in spite of the highly charged and partisan atmosphere that characterized that period. I had expected no less from you, gentlemen.

"Your use of the Court of Appeals ruling to ostensibly legitimize your board decision to disregard my presidential appointment is obviously a presumptuous ploy inasmuch as the case remains pending before the Supreme Court and as such, is still *sub judice*. Any lawyer will tell you that even commenting on the merits of the case in public, much less issuing policy rulings in this connection, are unethical.

"As such, my spouse and I are unable to accept your double-bladed largesse. Should we wish to watch any of the forthcoming shows at the Cultural Center it will not be necessary to bother your overworked and demoralized staff with piddling requests for this or that ticket.

"However, allow us to thank you for having made the gesture, empty though it may be."

Vandolph grows up

VANDOLPH, Dolphy's son with **Alma Moreno**, has grown up to be a teener with the usual share of juvenile heartaches. Gone is the baby fat. He looks slim and not quite bad-looking.

Spotted at Cibo at Shangri-La Plaza by nosey reporters *(malas niya)*, Vandolph appeared to be having a lovers' spat with a very pretty girl wearing the Colegio San Agustin uniform. The spat went on interminably. After about two hours, the girl was already smiling and it seemed everything was all right.

Madam Martyr

THIS lawmaker should be given the super-fidelity award. Despite having a philandering husband whose number of mistresses could shame a sultan's harem, she still goes about dutifully with her spousal tasks. After legislative work every day, she goes to his retreat in a government hospital where he is confined for a host of ailments aside from being in detention for corruption charges (he is a former public official). She doesn't just make ordinary hospital visits. In fact, she sleeps there—every day.

In the morning, she goes back to her house to prepare for the day's legislative grind. As far as we know, she hasn't filed a bill on spousal abuse and rehabilitation.

Free your mind with the Power of Three

Our everyday grind pushes us to the limit. The workplace breeds stress and pressure. And for most of us, the home is a haven from all the hustle and bustle. This is where we loosen up, be ourselves and spend quality moments with the family. It is the place where peace and utmost safety should reign. That is why every happy home should be a healthy home.

Be it our kitchen, bedrooms, or bathrooms, our families must be constantly safeguarded from bacteria that reside in the most unexpected places. When there's a sudden spill on the table, when the trashcan is turned over, or when our family pet leaves a not-so-pleasant trail, our ordinary cleaning habits cannot ensure that a particular area is devoid of micro-organisms that bring about infection.

Most often or not, when we see a surface as spotless, we readily conclude that it is germ-free. There is a need to correct such assumption simply because what we see is not necessarily what we get.

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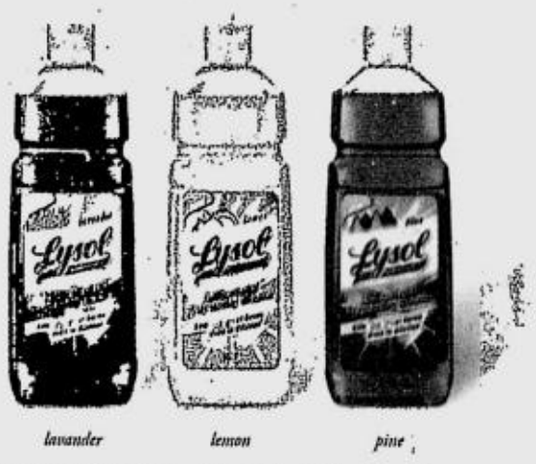

lavander lemon pine

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The Comelec's odd woman out

(From page E2)

tion *kung hindi din lang kumpleto 'yan. Kasi ang daming* petitions for correction of manifest errors that are pending before the NBC (National Board of Canvassers).

***Sino ang nagpe*-petition? *'Yung mga* candidates, *'yung* parties?**

The candidates, the parties. *Para sa akin*, let's settle these petitions for corrections first. And in the first place, the procedure should allow some kind of verification before inclusion of the canvassed results. *Ang hirap nang tanggap ka lang nang tanggap, eh, heto na nga ang mga problema, eh. Tapos walang mga* data on the number of registered voters, number of precincts that functioned, number of those who actually voted. *Sabi nila* formal defect *lang 'yan. E ano ba kako ang ibig sabihin ng* formal defect? *Hindi daw nakakaapekto sa* authenticity. Fine. But it does not show you whether it's complete really or not. And under our rules, one of the grounds to manifest errors are results of precincts that have been counted twice or missing, and errors in the transposition of figures from the election returns to the statement of votes by precincts, to the certificate of, then statement of votes by municipality or city...

How widespread was that?

Naku, marami. Very big provinces.

***Pero* is it across the board or it's confined geographically?**

Many. Let's say, Maguindanao...

Across the country?

Across the country *'yan*. For instance, Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, part of Nueva Ecija, Iloilo, Cebu...

How can we rightfully say that the elections are over or the ballots have been counted?

That's exactly my point when I dissented because the procedures would not allow us to do that.

The Commission should have anticipated all of these problems.

That is my point—why we have come up with different procedures, signed by four commissioners, but Chairman Benipayo insisted on his. And then they were able to convince Commissioner (Ralph) Lantion to sign with them on the understanding that certain pre-canvassing verification has been inserted there. But actually *hindi*. Then just to avoid our scrutiny, *nilagay lang niya* "no part." *Tatlo kami na ni-*"no part" *niya*. We anticipated all this.

What does it mean "no part"?

Ewan ko sa kanya. Ibig sabihin, no part, *wala kayong* part *dito*. "*Basta* I promulgate, *nakaapat na kami eh*." *Ganoon*.

Is he allowed to promulgate it *porke't apat na sila*?

Yes. We anticipated it. But remember that the senior staff and Commissioner (Rex) Borra were the ones who drafted this. *E sanay na sila doon eh*. For 40 years *nandodoon sila eh*. And Chairman Benipayo would just say, "You just rely on their experience." So every election *'yun na lang ang makikita mong problema. May* improvement *ba sa* election *natin* since 1986? Or 1984? *Di ba ganyan lahat*?

Some of my students who were Namfrel volunteers said the canvassing procedures were so elaborate that even the teachers would commit mistakes.

If I will have my way, I can simplify this very well. But you have to contend with inside forces that are also well entrenched—and would be resistant to change.

My students said there were so many names of candidates and so many copies to fill out. They said that the elaborate procedures seemed calculated to make the system fail.

Isa pa 'yon. The '87 Constitution synchronized the elections. *'Di naman dati* synchronized *'yan*, *'di ba*? There has got to be change somewhere.

So you're for Constitutional change at least to desynchronize the polls?

That's only one. *Meron pang isa diyan. 'Yung sa* canvassing, totals *lang ang sinasabing* basis and you can only go back to the election returns when there are questions. *Alam mo*, anomalous *ang ating* electoral process. In my study of electoral systems all over the world, the ballots are counted manually, then the results go straight to a national tally board, which is electronically run and the transmission is also electronic. I would love to use that and that has been my proposal about the modernization of our canvassing procedures.

So from precinct, national *agad*?

Yes, by electronic transmission.

Dito marami pang dinadaanan eh.

Ang daming dinadaanan na stopover. Before you knew it, the result, the total at the national level is different from the ballot.

But the Namfrel also wants computerization.

Ang gusto nila 'yung counting *ang i-*automate. During the pilot test of the counting machines, *wala namang* consolidation *na nangyari*. The consolidation failed but they said that it's successful. All the newspapers carried a successful account of the pilot testing. That is far from the truth.

***Pero* in other countries it works.**

*Ano ang nag-*work? Did you see the Florida system? It had been there all along, but because of the very close fight, *noon lang nila nakita*. But it doesn't mean it did not exist before. In many countries that started the modernization, they always start with a database. The Indian election commissioner, equivalent to our chairman, said that the most dangerous phase of the electoral process to automate is the counting process.

Which one should be prioritized then?

It's really the database, the systematization of the database, because it's garbage in, garbage out, let's admit that. Very basic.

***Pero 'di ba* when you write your vote in the ballot, then send it to the computer, the computer tallies it?**

Hindi ganoon kabilis 'yon. There must be security measures.

What security measures do you propose?

Kasi ang importante muna 'yung bumoboto, legitimate voters.

How do we make sure that the dead don't vote?

There are two projects that we started. Precinct mapping—we have to delineate the territorial boundaries of the precinct. Because when you vote, are you looking for your barangay or your precinct?

Your precinct.

But as it is now, it's by surname. *Ang gulo-gulo*.

When you vote in a precinct, it's a given that the precinct is located there in your barangay.

What if there are more than 10 precincts? And many of our barangays have more than 10.

So it should be geographical, not by surname. *Bakit hindi na-*implement *ang* precinct mapping project?

I was very much against the deferment. *Pero sabi ng aking mga kasamahan*, "*Sige na*, Luz, for the sake of harmony in this Commission, pumayag ka na."

Deferment of what?

Of the use of the results of this. *Sabi ko sayang naman itong mga pinaghirapan natin. But anyway, kung isa lang naman ako, talo lang din ako*. So I said, No. 1, *tiyak magkakagulo*, don't blame me. Another condition, there must be a comprehensive audit of the performance as well as the financial [costs], *kasi ang nangyari, 'yung mga magagaling na* election officers, *iyon ang mga pinagtawanan ng mga tamad. Kasi itong* project at the outset, *ayaw ng mga taga-*Comelec who do not want to lose their control over the voters lists.

When you say the Comelec, the bureaucracy of the Comelec?

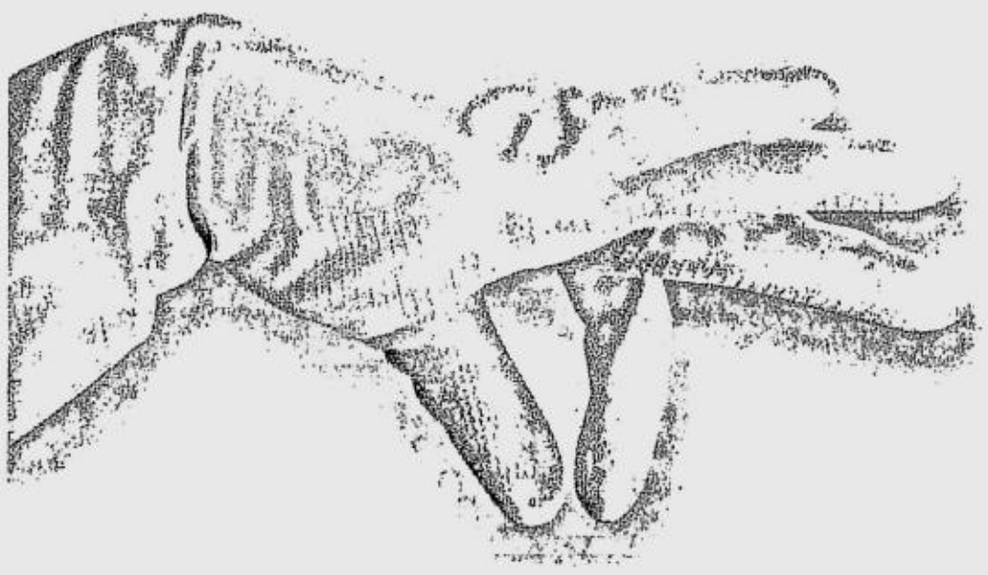
Comelec insiders. Not just the Comelec bureaucracy, but there are commissioners against it. So at the outset, *ang daming intriga niyan*. But there are many who are also diligent, who believe in an honest-to-goodness cleansing of the voters list.

***Pero* they turned it down, so the next election...**

Sinabi ko din yon, it should not be abandonment but only deferment to be resumed immediately after the May 14 elections. *Ano ang ginawa? Ayaw ni* Chairman Benipayo. And then when he left for abroad, the four of us (commis-

THE COMELEC'S/ p.E6

Is Ralph Recto No. 12 or No. 13? Based on the data, he's No. 13. **But deep in your heart, he's No. 12?** No. 1 *pa nga, eh.* (Laughs)



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The Comelec's odd woman out

(From page E5)

sioners) came up with a resolution for the resumption of the precinct mapping. The Commission secretary didn't promulgate it. Then an election officer was well commended by a local government in one province for her precinct mapping and donated money for her just to finish it. *Inisyuhan ng* cease and desist order ni Chairman Benipayo. So very clear, *ayaw niyang ipa*-resume. *Pero parang kanina* he was forced in the Senate to say that he will use *kasi inilabas ko 'yung* resolution *na 'yon*.

I think Chairman Benipayo could have agreed to that if you and he had talked in the first place. But there are people saying that the commission hardly meets and hardly discusses commission affairs.

That's true.

Because you and your... the other commissioners...

You and your group, *ha*? You are very careful to say that. (Laughter) That's good, because you don't give too much credit to me. (Laughter) You know we're just seven in the Commission en banc. It takes a leader to deal with coequals. In the first place, he's the chair, he should be the first among equals. That's the task of leadership. To hold and unify the Commission. But the collegial nature of the Comelec is not well understood by Chairman Benipayo. For instance, he would say that he's the chief executive officer and he can do this and that. Okay, he can do that—but "as laid down by the Commission"—*tinatanggal niya iyon*. For instance, he can submit to Congress the budget as approved by the commission en banc. But he never asked us to approve the budget. He just went to the DBM (Department of Budget and Management) and submitted his budget. There are assignments of commissioners for the region or different departments or working committees, if he cannot get the en banc, he will just issue a memorandum changing you commissioners. Even overtime and casuals of people working within the commissioners offices *ipapa*-approve *mo sa mga* senior staff, would you like that? What authority does he have to revoke en banc resolutions and issue memos? Where is the collegial nature if you put the senior staff over the commissioners? He has no basic respect to his colleagues in the commission. One-man commission *eh. O di sige. Bakit pa kami a*-attend? *Sige, gawin mo na lang 'yung gusto mo*, anyway why should I legitimize his one-man commission?

***Kontrabidang-kontrabida ang papel mo.* (Laughter)**

They called my exposé [about the proclamation of the 13th senator] "wild accusation." Actually, it was not an exposé, it was an official document. It was my dissenting opinion. *O bakit ngayon sa Senado napilitan si* Chairman Benipayo *na i*-admit *na talagang mali*? *Sabi niya* clerical error. *Paano ka mag-kaka*-clerical error *nang ganyan kalalaki*? *Milyon*! So there should be verification. *Kasi wala man lang* verification. You have to have the breakdowns.

So *walang ganoon*?

Wala.

***Bakit niya minadali*?**

That was the question that was asked of him by the senators.

What was his answer?

Wala, hindi siya makasagot.

In the past elections *din naman ang daming mga ganyang* complaints, *pero bakit ngayon lang inuungkat*?

Well, I cannot answer for the [previous] Commissions. But what I'm saying is that this problem has been there since 1987, 1986, when I studied Philippine elections. But at that point in time I was a researcher, pure and simple. But now I'm a commissioner. How can I square with my conscience if I see the same problems right at my face and I have to affix my signature. My God, I cannot do that. I cannot live with my conscience. Probably he didn't realize the conviction I have. When I studied elections there is always that part of advocacy in there. I did not study elections just for academic purposes. I studied elections because I wanted to have clean and honest elections in this country and now this is the right time for me to do something.

Has somebody offered you to be cooperative, to be silent?

No comment.

What would you answer if for example Ralph Recto says to you, you know...?

He will not say that because he's my student. He knows me. (Laughter)

Pero deep in your heart, is he No. 12 or No. 13? (Laughter)

Deep in my heart...

Okay, based on the data...

Based on the data he's No. 13.

But in your heart, he's No. 12?

No. 1 *pa nga eh*. (Laughs)

Loi Ejercito is No. 11?

Kung talagang lahat ng data *sa mga probinsiya ay maaayos, doon pa lang ako maniniwala sa mga* rankings. *Pero sa ngayon, 'di ko alam*. That's the secret of hiding the fraud with the procedures that have been rammed down my throat. Basically *hindi ako* negative *mag-isip, kunwari kakalkalin ko 'yung baho nila. Kasi* I think I can do better to put my energies in something constructive. I have a very beautiful garden.

You garden yourself?

Sa bahay lang. 'Yon ang aking therapy.

Mga flowering crops? Ornamentals?

Mahirap kasing magpabulaklak, di ba? So *gusto ko 'yung* leaves, they look like flowers—colorful. I don't go for orchids *na ang mamahal at kailangan ng* extra care. *Naku wala naman akong oras para sa ganoon.*

When do you work in your garden?

Early in the morning. *Kasi* there was a time I didn't feel like getting out of my bed. *Sabi ko*, what will I do? (Laughs)

When was that time? (Laughter)

Just before the elections.

You were already anticipating that incident?

(Nods) I was already bothered.

You have a green thumb?

Oo pala.

Where is your garden?

Sa bahay ko sa Parkway Village, Roosevelt, QC. Actually, it's a rented house. My house really is on Maginhawa Street, UP Village. I'm alone in that house so *maliit lang siya*. But when I got appointed to Comelec, *marami kang* security, *maraming* drivers, *wala na akong* privacy. *Ako pa naman 'yung* short-short *lang*, T-shirt-T-shirt *lang sa bahay. Ayoko ng may* bra *sa bahay*. (Laughter). *Ayoko namang makita*

ako ng driver *na ganoon ang hitsura ko*. (Laughs) *Sabi ko ipa*-rent *ko na lang itong bahay*.

Do you cook?

I know how to cook, but I don't have the time to cook. And I don't want to devote my time cooking kasi it's so time-consuming.

Why did you not marry?

Siguro the right guy did not come at the right time. (Laughter)

Were you ever engaged?

Yes *naman*. (Laughter)

***Sino 'to*?** (Laughter)

'Wag na lang. (Laughs)

***Nagba*-blush *ka, mukhang* celebrity... (Laughter)**

"Tinitingnan ko sarili ko, tsaka tinitingnan kita, palagay ko you will go far, *eh*," *sabi nya. "Kesa masaktan pa ako* later, *buti ngayon na*." I appreciated him for that, you know.

***Pareho kayong nasaktan*?**

Of course.

What did you do?

Noon naman I was teaching in UP Tacloban and my boyfriend was here in Manila that time. There were so many things to do. One year *lang ako doon* because I just wanted to explore.

Did you ever teach in Mindanao?

Hindi. (Laughs)

***Taga*-UP?**

'Yung iba, taga-UP, *'yung iba, hindi*. (Laughter) Taga-Mindanao.

***Hindi naman* Muslim?**

Muslim. (Laughter)

Wow! *Kaya pala ang* get-up *mo medyo*... (Laughter)

No, I don't have bias against Muslims. *Siguro* if I were ever reincarnated I would be a Muslim princess. (Laughter)

Baka pag nakita kayo ni* Ali Dimaporo, *ayain ka niyang pakasal.

Hindi, galit sa kin 'yon eh. (Laughter)

Why did you not marry? The right guy did not come along or you are so engrossed in your career?

Siguro isa 'yon. Kasi I love my career so much.

But you still can get married...

Oo nga, kaya lang... (Laughs)

Do you have a significant other right now?

Wala nga e. (Laughter) No time. *Parang* I had given up *na rin siguro*. (Laughter)

Why? (Laughter)

Kasi nakakapagod din after failed relationships.

How many? (Laughter)

At least five. (Laughter)

Wow! You've been... playgirl. (Laughter)

Hindi naman, one at a time *lang, oy*. (Laughs)

Why did they fail? They couldn't cope with a woman like you?

'Yung isa ganon, inamin talaga.

Do you think that the Namfrel has been biased since 1984?

If they can make something out of you or use you, they'll be good [to you]. But if you have outlived your usefulness, *wala ka na*.

Their interests are big business.

You said it

Oo, but only on weekends. Every weekend I went around the country for our extension program *kaya* enjoy *na* enjoy *ako doon*.

What is your favorite place in Mindanao?

Hay naku, the whole Philippines is my favorite place *kasi iba-iba yung* beauty *nila*. If you go to Dakak, if you go to Sulu, if you go to Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga, Camiguin, Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon, Surigao del Norte... *ang gaganda nila, iba-ba*. Currimao *ang ganda-ganda*...

Have you been to all these places?

Yeah. *Kasi* I've been teaching all over. Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan also, Baguio...

There must be a place closest to your heart.

Hindi ko nga malaman kung alin eh, kahit sa Laguna....

Where would you like to retire, for example?

Laguna, because of its hot springs.

***Dapat bumili ka na ng* property doon...**

Actually, we were thinking. My brother has, *pero sabi ko, kayo na lang muna. I*-reserve *ninyo na lang ako't baka mamaya masama pa 'yan sa intriga*. (Laughter) *'Yun nga lang sa* Bulacan, we have a house in Bulacan. It's big but I'm not comfortable. *Puro alikabok, nangangati ako. Sabi ng* brother *ko*, "*Sige, hayaan mo at ipapa*-renovate *natin. Pero* on second thought, *baka na naman maging* issue *sa yo*," (Laughter)

Did you personally know Erap?

Yes.

Were you like friends?

Oh, no. It's Dr. Raul de Guzman, who is his brother-in-law, who was our dean for 10 years. *Siya yung nag*-recruit *sa akin sa* (UP College of) Public Administration. He gave me a 1. Of course, he didn't know me before until that exam. *In*-offer-an *niya ako pagka*-graduate *ko*. He wanted me to stay in UP, *kasi* I was with Mindanao State University that time. *Sabi ko*, "Sir, *madami pa akong problema sa bahay namin eh. Pwede ba itapon nyo ko sa medyo malayo-layo* because I don't want to subject myself to pains on a daily basis." *Sige, sa* UP Tacloban. So that's how I got to UP Tacloban. After a year, *bumalik na ako sa* Public Ad. Then, of course, being the brother-in-law of Erap, *tinutulungan nya talaga si* Erap ever since he became mayor. The local government center had been helping Erap a lot that time.

Will you go back sa teaching?

Yeah, *pero siguro* I'll be more active in advocacy work.

Or elections? How about Namfrel?

These people, I have known them already. *Mahirap 'yung mas-yadong mayayaman*. Okay *ka lang kung papakinabangan ka nila. Kung hindi*, they can destroy you.

PPCRV (Parish Pastoral Council on Responsible Voting)?

Okay *pa 'yon. Sayang nga na-matay si* Tito Cunying *eh. Alam mo mahal na mahal ako ng matandang 'yon. Dahil sa kadedepensa niya sa kin sa* Namfrel *hindi na siya kinu-hang* board director *ng* Namfrel.

You have regrets about joining government?

Hindi naman. Siguro chal-lenged *lang ako*. It's my time to serve in a different capacity. *Di na-man* regret, *kasi kung* regret, *parang* [it's turning] away from a responsibility that I am most capable of doing.

Do you think that a non-lawyer should be also eligible for the chairmanship of the Comelec?

Ako, I strongly feel that being a lawyer should not be a requirement, not because I want to be a chairman, but because the Comelec needs someone with administrative sense, *kasi* Comelec is 90 percent administration of election. *Hindi* judicial *lang kasi kaya nagkaka-rami-rami 'yang mga kaso ay dahil hindi naaayos 'yung* administrative part.

So you think that a lawyer is partial to procedural matters, rather than the more substantive matters of administration.

A chairman should bother about the substantive and procedural aspects of administering elections. *Kasi* in the first place, I'm very concerned about the functions of elections as a legitimizing instrument, as an instrument of exacting accountability and as a mechanism of representation. *Kaya* procedurally, substantively, I think I have an edge even if I'm not a lawyer, but that's beside the point. *Ang totoo nito, 'yung ambisyon ko ay sumobra na sa* where I am now *kasi ang gusto ko lang mag*-professor *sa* UP, *tama na sa kin 'yon. Nung sinasabi sayang, di ka* lawyer, *sana naging* chairman *ka. Sabi ko, naku, hindi na kasi sobra-sobra na ho itong narating ko sa ambisyon ko. Kaya naman* I am just doing my best.

In your opinion, how fraudulent were the past elections?

Alam mo yung extent is very difficult to gauge. I will not take the hazard of [making incredible estimates]. But if you ask me, with this simple plurality, with multiple positions, only 5 percent already matters because *ang laki niyan. Kun-wari, ano ba ang* difference *nung* 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15? *Wala pang isang milyon iyan*. Can you imagine? *E ang dali-daling mandaya ng* 1 *milyon*. Mind you *ha, hanggang ngayon hindi kumpleto ang* data *namin kung ilan talaga ang bumo-to*.

But *hindi ba* usually after the election *may* report *kayo ng* voter turnout?

Sabi noon ni Chairman Benipayo, 85 percent *daw 'yung* turn-out? *Nung ako iyong tanungin, sabi ko, tanungin mo si* Chairman Benipayo *kung ano'ng* basis *niya*? *Wala. 'Di na niya ni*-repeat *iyon*.

What do you say to the people who say that it happens in all countries?

Ah, no. In many countries procedural issues are already settled. In this country, the procedural problems are accumulated. They're getting worst. That's the plain fact. And there are many anomalous features of our electoral system because we tend to copy without really looking into the ramifications of a particular feature of the electoral system. Like multiparty system. *Tapos nag*-simple plurality *lang tayo*. We never have a majority winner and *'yun naman* very basic *na 'yung* definition of democracy as 50 percent plus 1. So how's that? It is a retrogression. We came up with a party list along with the multiparty system, but we have a presidential government instead of a parliamentary. We have a threshold and at the same time a ceiling for party lists. In many countries, *'yung* party list, empirical *'yung* threshold, *hindi* set number. Which means you total first the number of votes garnered by all the parties and then divided by the number of seats. *Hindi kamukha dito sa atin*, 53 *na 'yung* seats because it increases as the number of legislative districts increases also. *Pero nang-yayari*, 2 percent times 53 seats, that's 106 percent. You'll never have a situation where you can fill up all the 53 seats. And yet we have a ceiling pa so a lot of all these votes can be wasted. You can waste it *dahil kung* beyond how many percent, *wala na*, three seats *lang*. *'Yun naman* with 162 party list, how can they come up with 2 percent? 162 times 2 percent, 324 percent, *kelan ka makaka*-324 percent? Statistically impossible. Then the other thing is, *'yung* threshold for the first seat is also the formula being applied to get the second and the third seats. In other countries, there are different formula for treating the reminders after you have won the first seat. *'Di nila alam yon*. So *sabi ko, ano ba ito*? When you speak that way, *sasabihin nila, naku, nagmamagaling na naman to, akala mo ke dunong-dunong nito*. They're not open to this. There's no honest-to-goodness substantive discussion on the problems in our electoral system. Not even the framers of the Constitution ever thought of the different technical aspects of election vis-à-vis the nature of the electoral party, the nature of the form of government. *May mga* technical aspects *'yan eh*. That is what election studies are all about. While I'm not a lawyer, I don't think I am less qualified to sit there.

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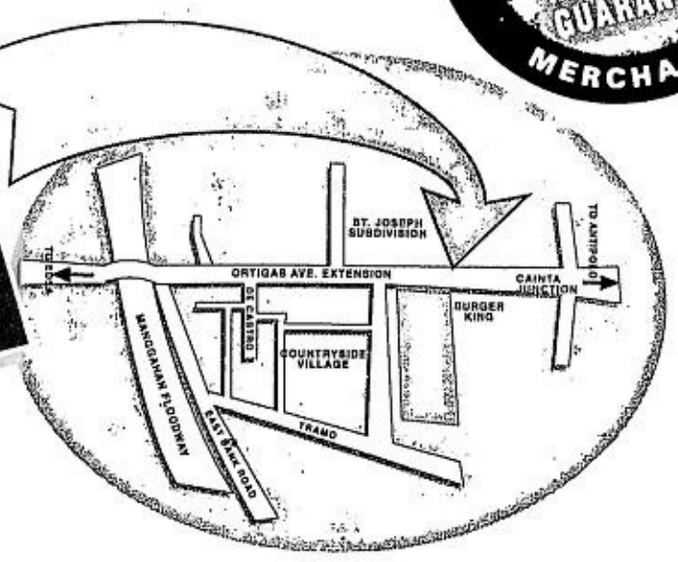

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Week Walker Views

Are Gordon and indicted Intramuros Administration chief playing beautiful music together?

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

A HEARING early this week in the Senate proved the extraordinary closeness between Tourism Secretary **Richard Gordon** and Intramuros Administration (IA) chief **Dominador Ferrer**. The closeness explains why Gordon has not removed Ferrer from his post despite corruption charges against the IA chief in the Sandiganbayan.

The hearing tackled Gordon's Cabinet appointment. Forming themselves as claque were the senior officers of the IA, led by Ferrer, who rarely reports to his office but appears prompt and punctilious at every occasion to ingratiate himself to Gordon, who is chair of the IA board.

Last Monday, Ferrer reportedly issued a memorandum to the senior officials and the rank and file to attend the hearing. The memo harked back to the Marcos era when civil servants were herded to imeldific rallies and projects. Doesn't the Code of Conduct of Public Officials ban needless "holidays" that result in paralysis of government operations?

GORDON. He hasn't implemented six-month-old suspension ruling on sycophant.

But apparently Gordon needed all the support he could muster. His position seems tenuous since he does not reportedly enjoy the support of the DOT unions that are alienated by his alleged mercurial, aimless management style.

So is Gordon desperate to show he has the support of the DOT and its attached agencies like the IA so that he courts the backing of a functionary who has been indicted for violations of the anti-graft and corrupt practices law? Most probably. This may explain why he hasn't implemented the Sandiganbayan suspension on Ferrer, which was issued last April. Is somebody in contempt of court here?

No to NCCA interim chair

AT THE NATIONAL Commission on Culture and the Arts, the Committees on the Visual Arts and Literary Arts have refused a suggestion by Malacañang to appoint Tourism Undersecretary **Evelyn Pantig** as interim chair. The other committees are also not reportedly inclined to accept the proposal.

Malacañang said the interim appointment is needed while Congress discusses the bill on the establishment of the Department of Culture. But the NCCA committees said lawmakers should consult them on the plan. In any case, the NCCA would not be able to defend its interests with an interim chair.

"*Kung* interim chair *lang pala ang kailangan, eh bakit hindi na lang ni*-retain *si* **Jaime Laya** on a hold-over capacity?" said a member of the visual arts committee.

Both committees insisted that the NCCA law and rules should be observed. Since the rules make no mention of an interim chair, a full-fledged chair should be appointed according to the procedures set by the law.

And why is Malacañang ready to appoint an interim chair in preparation for the proposed Department of Culture? Is the proposal a Malacañang-certified bill?

CCP, the Cultural Center of Pettiness

HOW petty can cultural functionaries get? During the CCP board of trustees' monthly meeting last Sept. 20, the new board headed by chair **Baltazar Endriga** stripped former CCP president **Armita Rufino** of the privileges and benefits usually accorded to former CCP heads and trustees. "It was decided that your stint with the CCP which covered the period of Jan. 4, 1999 to July 25, 2001, was not in accordance with the pertinent provision of the CCP Charter," CCP president **Nestor Jardin** wrote Rufino. "As you may recall, the Court of Appeals issued the same ruling in its decision dated May 17, 1999."

RUFINO: Free tickets? No thanks.

But Jardin added: "However, as a gesture of friendship, I wish to extend to you and your spouse an open invitation to attend all performances and events held at the CCP. Because of CCP's strict policy of not allowing anyone into the performance venues without a ticket, may I request you to inform my office of the specific performances and dates that you want to attend so I may send you the appropriate tickets."

Rufino wrote Jardin back: "As you may recall during my tenure, we did not deprive Mr. Endriga

ARE GORDON/ p.E4

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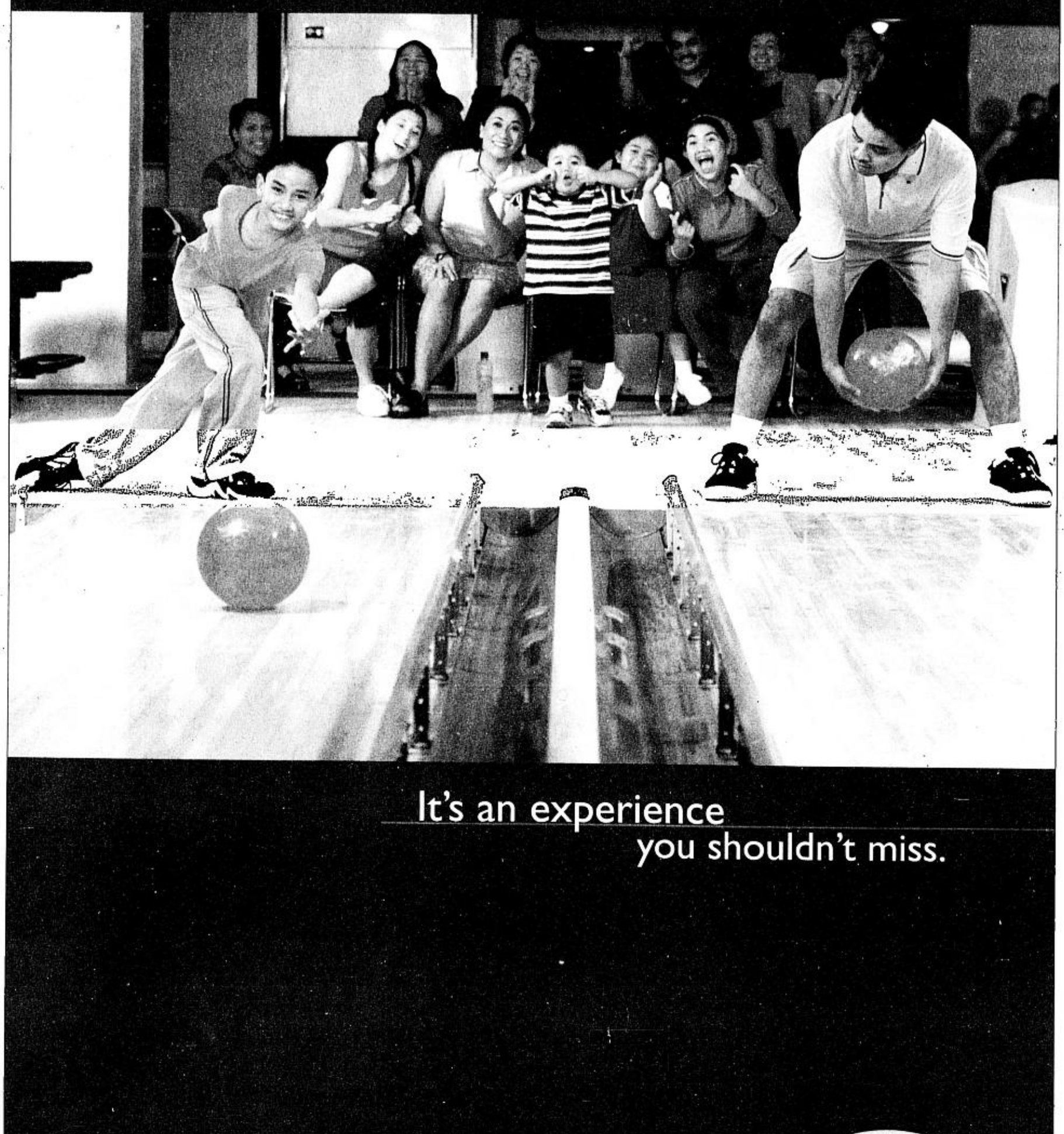

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Love withstands test of time

MARK Ang and Donna Ng met one summer before graduation when they both worked.

Both determined to have fulfilling careers, the couple worked hard to finish their education—architecture for him at the University of Santo Tomas and legal management for her at De la Salle University. Ang would later top the board examination.

But marriage was again put on hold. Ang, the eldest of four children, set up his own business in construction and advertising, the Big Shop Indoor & Outdoor Advertising Inc. Ng worked as treasurer and head manager of Architect Metal System Inc.

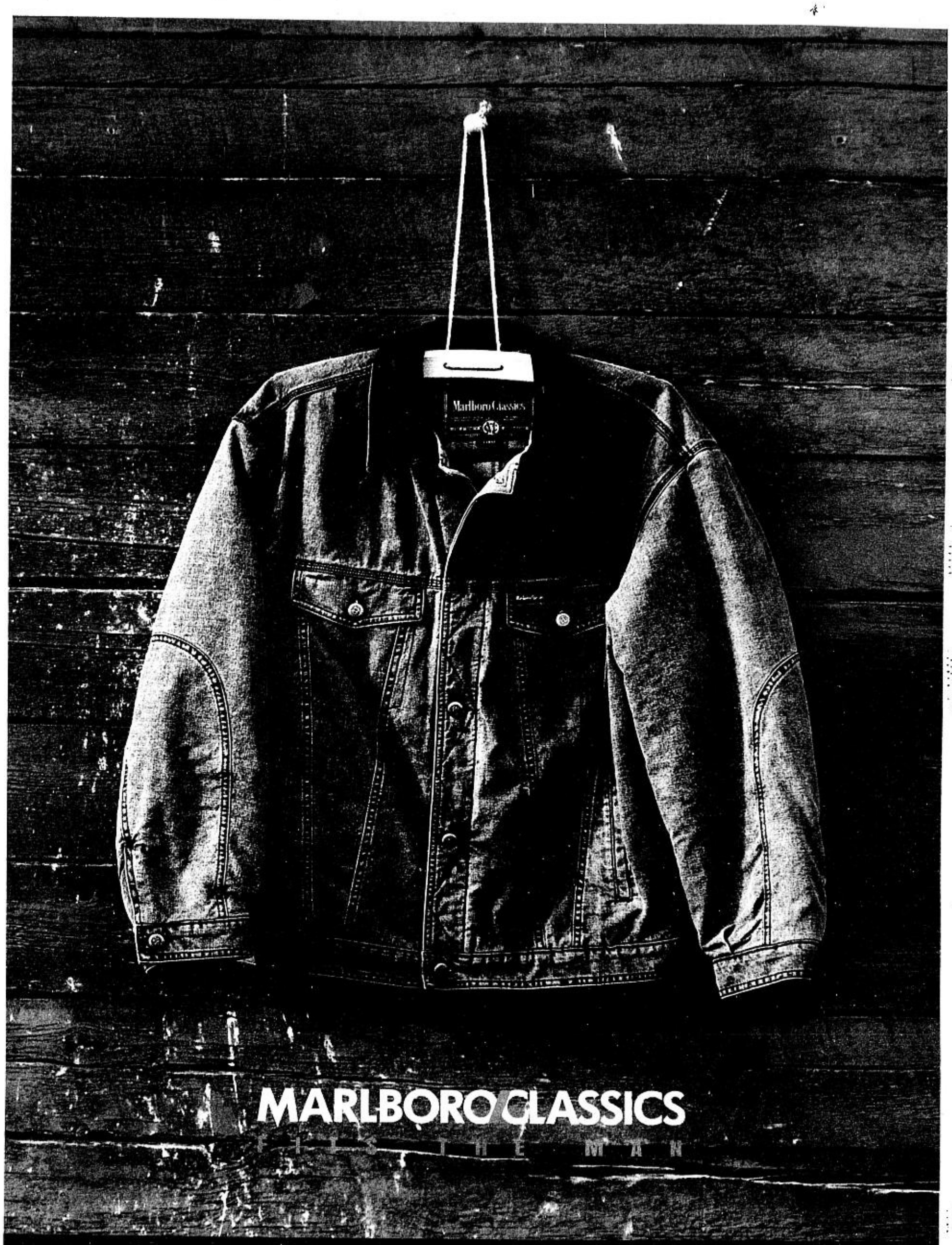
True love, however, withstands the test of time. Ang and Ng finally sealed their love for each other in ceremonies held recently at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

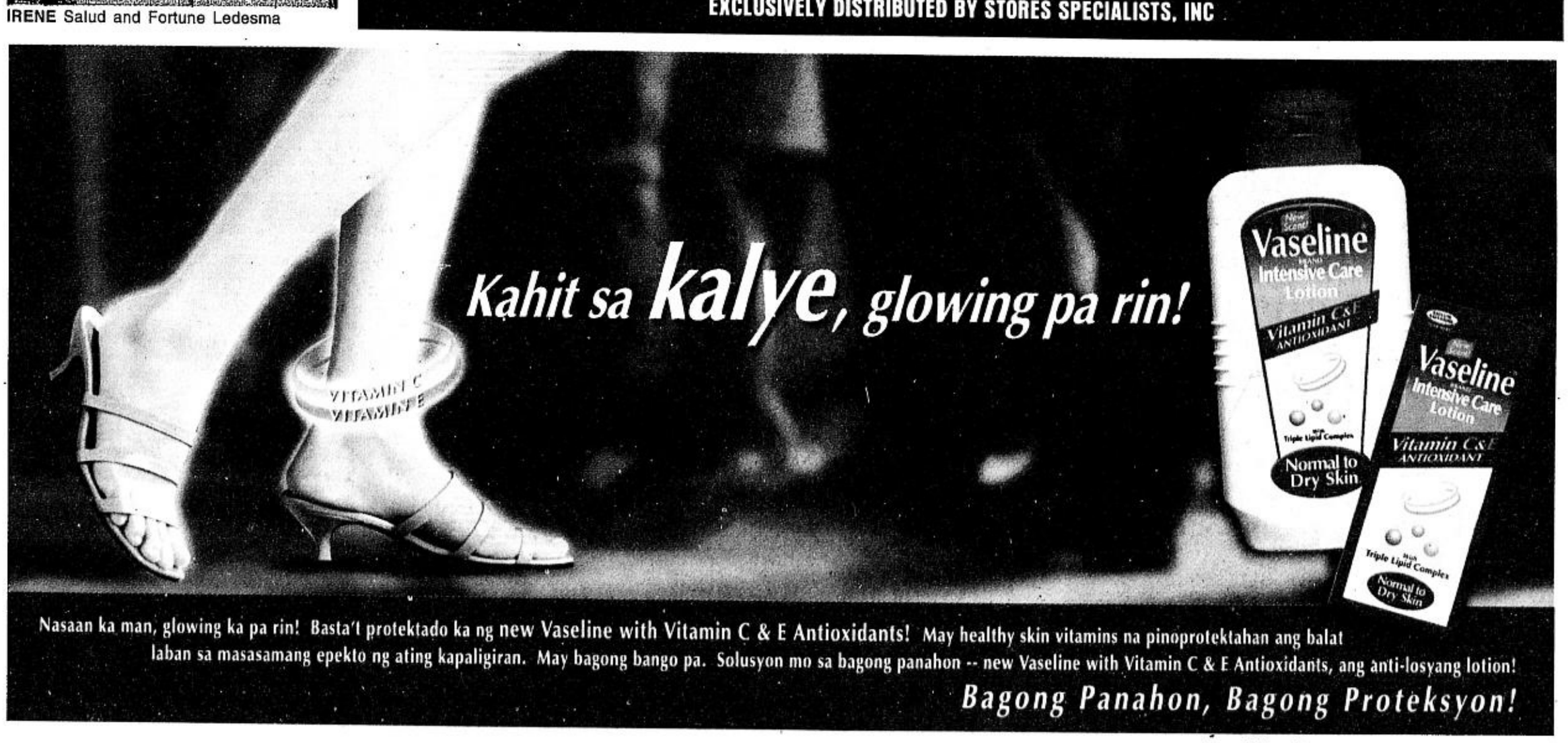
The couple prepared long for the important day, personally attending to every little detail. On the day itself, the air was filled with the sweet sounds of The String Minstrels and Ateneo de Manila Glee Club.

Principal sponsors were Sen. Loi Ejercito, Justa Tantoco, Brenda Reyes, Agnes Masucol, Helen Ong, Lidy Tan, Belty Yu, Regina Dee, Conchita Salud, Fortune Ledesma, Rudy

LOVE/p.F2

IRENE Salud and Fortune Ledesma





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Love withstands test of time

(From page F1)

Fernandez, James Ong, Luis Ong, Elizar Masucol, Leo Ang, Ricardo Tan, Antonio Yu, Alfredo Bonpin, Sandy Javier and former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada. Secondary sponsors were Nicholas Cahan and Lilybelle Ng for the candles, Jason Ng and Abigail Ng for the veil, and James Gerard Ong Jr. and Daryl Gay Chang for the cord.

Flower girls were Geonina Vanelyn Co and Patricia Vasquez while coin and ring bearers were Jean Kevin Chan and Francis Ryan Cadigoy, respectively. Rose and carnation petals were strewn on the aisle as the junior groomsmen Angelo Morada, Joseph Luis Estrada, Patrick Roy Tan and Isaiah Cyrus Majam walked before the groomsmen Warren, John Mark and John Anthony Ng.

The bridesmaids, Jean Margarita Ong and Valerie and Monica Ang, wore gowns the color of the morning sky. Maid of honor was Jocelyn Gulayan, a very close friend of the bride.

WITH THE SECONDARY sponsors Lilybelle Ng, Abigail Ng, Daryl Gay Chang, James Gerard Ong Jr., Jason Ng and Nicholas Cahan

THE NEWLYWEDS. Donna Ng and Mark Ang

LORNA Tolentino, Sen. Loi Ejercito, Janela and Precy Ejercito

ELIZAR Masucol, Luis Ong and Jimmy Ong

WITH JOHN Mark Ng, John Anthony Ng, Fe Ng, Hanna Ang, Johny Ng and Warren Ng

BRENDA Reyes, Justa Tantoco, Dr. Ejercito, Rudy Fernandez and Johnny Ng

She's having qualms about leaving her married lover because of their son

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I am a pharmacy graduate and I come from a wealthy family from the Visayas region. While studying, I stayed with my sister and her husband who were caring and supportive.

When I was in fourth year high school, I spent long hours in school because of extracurricular activities. This worried my sister and her husband. So my brother-in-law insisted to pick me up at school whenever I had to stay out late. It was during these moments that my brother-in-law and I got to know each other very well. He was warm and easy to get along with, and he always made me laugh with his jolly antics. I'm not sure when things became serious between us. We tried to avoid each other, thinking that what we felt would soon pass, but I still couldn't stop thinking about him. When we finally got to talk about what we really felt for each other, neither of us thought of stopping what we felt. At 17 years old, I had my very first boyfriend—Jarry, my brother-in-law.

He felt conscious whenever he showed affection toward his wife. I felt guilty with what was going on between us. Finally, when we could no longer stand the tension, I moved out and stayed in an apartment. Since then, I became dependent on Jarry, emotionally and financially.

When friends started telling me to leave Jarry and find my own man, Jarry transferred me to another school. I was able to graduate, and Jarry was there during the commencement rites. He looked so handsome and happy that I promised myself that I wouldn't ever leave him.

We had our love child when I was 20 years old. He was so ecstatic when the baby came out. I managed to hide Jerry, our son, from my brothers and sisters whenever they would visit me. But when my secret was discovered, I told them that Jerry is my son from a serious relationship I had during college days and that the father is now working abroad and sends us money regularly. My parents didn't have the slightest idea about what was happening to me because I asked my brothers and sisters to hide the truth from them.

Jerry is 8 years old now and the secret is still well kept from everyone else in the family. However, Jerry knows who his father is, since Jarry visits us every day.

Jerry is starting to ask questions about why his father doesn't stay with us all the time. I told him that his father is a very busy man who travels a lot.

Jarry has sensed my restlessness lately, and when I told him the reason, he promised to leave my sister and bring me and our son to the States to start a new life. He is just waiting for the chance to tell my sister that everything is over between them. At first, I eagerly welcomed his plans of escape, and I dream about the day we can finally be together like a real family. But as I begin to think about it now, I feel doubtful. I feel I am asking too much by wanting my child to have his father around all the time, but depriving his real family of their father. I have thought time and time again about what will happen to me and my child when I finally decide to leave Jarry. I wouldn't be hurt financially, but would I be able to stand the pain and the hurt the separation is bound to bring not only to myself but to my son as well? Would I be able to fill my son's need for the caring and moral support that his father has given abundantly?

CINDY

Time and again we have asked ourselves why we feel so right about what is wrong and we willingly give ourselves wholeheartedly to what is forbidden. Even if we know that something is wrong we still keep doing it because it makes us feel good.

When you accepted Jarry and decided to have a serious relationship with him, you knew the consequences of having an affair with a married man and worst, bearing a child by him. You knew that you could never really own him. You knew that he could never spend time with you and your son more than what he spends with his own family. There can never be lasting togetherness. Only stolen moments which usually end sooner than you want it to. You are emotionally dependent on Jarry and still carried away by strong passionate feelings. But Jarry can never be a husband to both you and your sister at the same time. He has to make a choice. A choice that may destroy his family or a choice that may hurt you.

I know how much Jarry means to you but you have to be strong because real happiness is not found when we inflict pain to others. You may be happy but you'll never find peace in your heart because you know that you are trying to own what is not yours. Your son needs a father and I agree with Jarry's continued moral support, but as far as you are concerned, I honestly believe that you have to strive harder to learn to live without him. Stop thinking of how hard it will be for you but rather think of how painful it will be for your sister. Remember she has children, too and they will also need to understand why they have a cousin and a brother at the same time.

Whatever decision you make will greatly affect your son. You can never lie to him forever. Every child from a broken family soon understands his place in the society but how they will be affected by their status in life depends on how much love and sincerity their parents show them.

Let your son be far more important than the desires of your heart. You and Jarry should be honest with him. With love and honesty, I'm sure he will grow up to understand his parents without hatred in his heart.

Daddy's little girl blooms into a charmer

HER father will always remember her as the little girl he carried during his morning walks.

Along one of the roads they took then, she would point to the thick yellowbell shrubs and her father would pick out the brightest flower, pluck it and put it on her hair. She would scream in delight and hold on to the yellowbell as she would for dear life.

MALOR dances the night away with special guest Onemig Bondoc.

Last month, during a dinner-dance celebration, her father picked a bouquet not of yellow bells but of red roses to give to her. She did not scream or giggle in delight, she just smiled in deep appreciation. The little girl has grown.

Maria Loribel Baylon Ulanday, the eldest child of INQUIRER associate editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday** and **Lolita D. Baylon**, celebrated her debut at the main clubhouse of the Acropolis Greens in Libis, QC. The dinner-dance party capped a month-long whirlwind preparation.

Malor, as her family and friends call her, said in her thanksgiving speech that there should have been no debut party at all. "But my parents said I deserved one because of my good grades."

WITH HER family, from left, dad Abelardo, mom Lolita and brother Jan Michael

THE DEBUTANTE resplendent in her red gown with fine silver thread accents

ARA Mina regales Malor and her guests with a song number.

A second-year tourism student at the University of Santo Tomas, Malor has been on the dean's list. "She studies hard, we know, but how she does it really amazes us because we always see or hear her on the phone chatting with friends," her mom says.

The phones will keep on ringing and she'll keep on answering the calls, but as long as she can keep her good grades her parents wouldn't mind. A stern warning though from her *lola*: Keep the boys at bay.

The affair was graced by film star **Ara Mina**, who rendered two song numbers, and by teen heartthrob **Onemig Bondoc** who gamely danced not only with Malor but with the debutante's mom and other female guests as well. A special dance number dished out by Malor and her friends highlighted the party.

Milestones

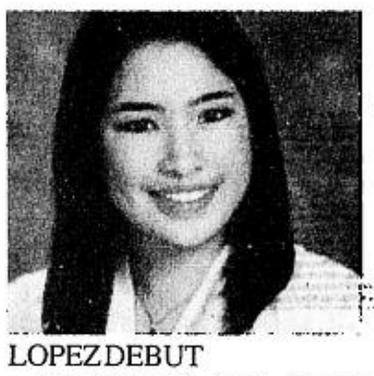
We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

COLAGO-VARGAS

Margarita Teresa "Meg" S. Vargas recently exchanged marriage vows with **Jose Justin G. Colago** at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Makati. Fr. **Edwin Soliva** solemnized the union. Photo shows the couple with their parents, (L-R) **Filemon "Boogie" C. Vargas** and **Leslie Sales-Vargas**, **Josie Gapit-Colago** and **Leopoldo Colago**. The bridal entourage ensemble was created by **Mike dela Rosa** while hair and makeup was by **Andrew** of Jessie Mendez Salon. Buffet dinner with ballroom dancing was held at The New World Renaissance Hotel Makati.

PANGCO DEBUT

Maria Angela G. Pangco, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Jun C. Pangco**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Oct. 6 at Garcia's Resort in Kawit, Cavite.



LOPEZ DEBUT

Jennette Lyn H. Lopez, daughter of **Fernando H. Lopez** and **Aurora Lopez**, celebrated her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance party on Oct. 20 at the grand ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila in Makati City.

ABAD-DIMAYUGA

Alvin Abad, son of **Leonardo** and **Carmencita Abad**, exchanged marriage vows with **Joyvee Dimayuga**, daughter of **Venusto** and **Josefina Dimayuga**, on Oct. 14, at St. Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City. The bride wore a spaghetti-strapped A-line gown embellished with rhinestones and has a detachable cathedral train designed by **Jemima Barba**. Reception followed at CAP Development Center, Lipa City.

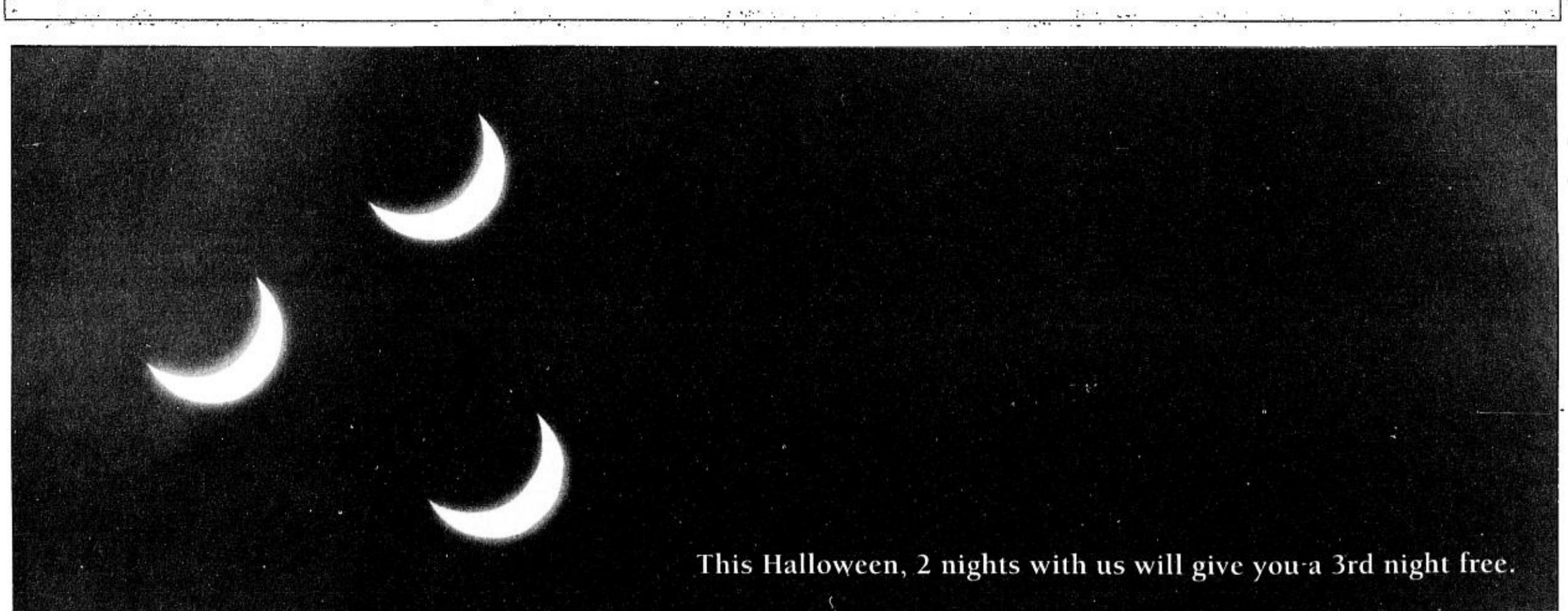
ALINSOD-PEREZ

Romello Alinsod, son of **Ligaya** and the late **Isidro Alinsod**, will tie the knot with **Laarni Perez**, daughter of **Zenaida** and the late **Renato Perez**, on Oct. 27, at the St. John Bosco Church in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Reception will follow at the Santarosa Estates Clubhouse, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

SCHOTEL-GUTAY

Atle Schotel, son of Mr. and Ms **Jouke Schotel** of Rotterdam, Holland and Bergin, Norway, exchanged "I dos" with **Ma. Theresa Gutay**, daughter of Dr. and Ms **Vicente Gutay** of Allen, Northern Samar, on Oct. 20 at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. Cocktails preceding the reception followed at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila.

The bride wore an off-white Swiss organdy strapless top and satin-embroidered French tulle on a 5-meter train fully embellished with cut glass, sugar crystals, caviar beads and Swarovski crystals designed by **Joel Bautista** who also created the groom's *barong*. **JP Montilla** coordinated the whole event.



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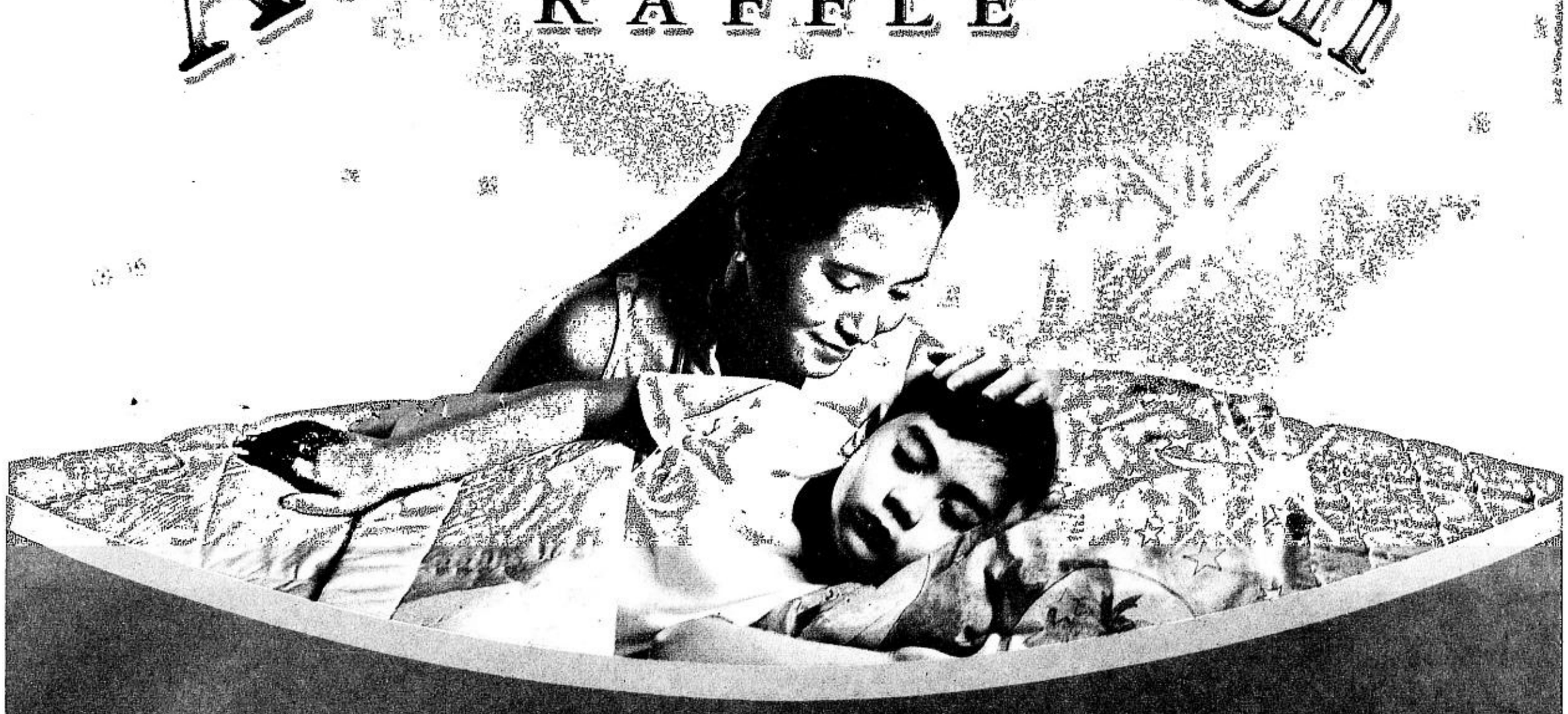

FIRST & SECOND PRELIMINARY DRAWS

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1st Prize	9 winners*	₱100,000 in cash
2nd Prize	9 winners*	₱50,000 in cash
3rd Prize	9 winners*	₱20,000 in cash
Consolation	90 winners (10 winners / area)	₱5,000 in cash

FIRST PRELIMINARY DRAW
Deadline for Entries: Nov. 23, 2001
Raffle Draw: Nov. 30, 2001

SECOND PRELIMINARY DRAW
Deadline for Entries: Dec. 23, 2001
Raffle Draw: Dec. 30, 2001

*One winner per area (Metro Manila, North Luzon, Central Luzon, South Luzon 1, South Luzon 2, West Visayas, East Visayas, North Mindanao, and South Mindanao)

GRAND DRAW

1st Prize	4 winners*	Prize Package worth ₱2 million	₱1 Million Bank Account / High School and College Education Plans / Health Insurance / 3-year supply of NIDO / Clothes and Toys
2nd Prize	4 winners*	Prize Package worth ₱1 million	₱500,000 Bank Account / High School and College Education Plans / Health Insurance / 3-year supply of NIDO / Clothes and Toys
3rd Prize	4 winners*	Prize Package worth ₱500,000	₱300,000 Bank Account / High School Education Plan / Health Insurance / 3-year supply of NIDO / Clothes and Toys
Consolation	12 winners (3 winners / area)	₱50,000 in cash	

*One winner each for Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

HOW TO JOIN:

- Write your name, address, phone number, and signature PLUS A CHILD'S NAME AND BIRTHDAY on NIDO Full Cream or NIDO Fortified box tops or labels.
- Drop your entries in drop boxes at leading groceries and supermarkets.
- The Grand Draw will be on February 3, 2002. All entries must be in by January 27, 2002.
- The promotion is from October 15, 2001 to January 27, 2002 only.

OVER ₱18 MILLION IN PRIZES!
SEND YOUR ENTRIES NOW!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0791 Series of 2001

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT HEAD (Code: SM-PMD)
- A licensed Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer or Electrical Engineer.
- At least 5 years extensive experience in Project Management handling complex projects.
- At least 3 years experience on managerial function and acting as Project Manager.
- At least 2 years experience in planning and design works.
- Knows how to drive and with valid drivers license.
- Proficient in MS Office applications.
- Has proven competency in both leadership and project management.

PURCHASING MANAGER (Code: M-PUR)
- Directs execution of purchasing strategies and policies
- Responsible for sourcing decisions including but not limited to overseas sourcing
- Initiates and oversees cost reduction/ avoidance efforts
- Maintains contacts/ network with key suppliers
- Excellent analytical and decision making abilities; flexible, hardworking, and creative
- With thorough knowledge of import procedures and payment methods
- Graduate of Management, Engineering or any related course
- At least 3 years related experience in the same capacity
- Experience in ERP (SAP R/3 Procurement Module) would be an advantage

RADIO NETWORK PLANNING AND OPTIMIZATION MANAGER (Code: Code: M-RNP/RNO)
- At least 5 to 7 years of experience in CMTS technology (AMPS,GSM, CDMA)
- Experience in foreign networks would be an advantage
- Wih good supervisory/management skills
- Aggressive, flexible, dynamic and with good communication and interpersonal skills
- Will also be responsible for capacity, coverage and quality planning

NETWORK SPECIALIST (Code: ISG-NS)
- A degree in BS ECE, Computer Engineer or equivalent
- With minimum of 3 years work experience in data network and Server Administration
- Experience in LAN / WAN such as Ethernet, Gigabit Ethernet, TCP / IP, routers, switches
- Good knowledge on OS such as NT4, Windows 2000 Advance Server, Unix (HP/UX)
- Good knowledge of routing and application protocol such as SMTP, BGP4
- Knowledge on Server such as e-mail server, Radius Server, Media Server; Firewall configuration set-up and administration.
- Proficient in LAN/WAN technology, NT Server Administration
- Perform Systems/Server administration and network performance tuning

Capable to stage product evaluation and system integration requirements

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR (Code: FNG-BDS)
- Will be responsible for project SBU's financial performance
- Knowledgeable in spreadsheet-model building and financial analysis
- A graduate of Finance, Accounting, Economics or Statistics
- Knowledgeable with wire line internet and data-transport technologies of any telecom industry
- Background in research or spreadsheet financial model building is an advantage

SENIOR AUDITOR /AUDITOR (Code: SR. AUD/AUD)
- A graduate of B. S. Commerce or B. S. Administration major in Accounting,
- Must be CPA
- At least 4 years work experience in auditing and / or business risk management and / or related advisory services gained from any of the 5 Big accounting firms and / or other organization
- Experienced in the review and evaluation of systems, internal controls, processes and operations in a computerized environment
- At least 1 year supervisory experience
- Very good interpersonal skills with demonstrated teamwork
- Results oriented, diligent and committed to the pursuit of excellence
- Knowledge of PC software applications including spreadsheet, database, word processing and presentation software

SENIOR SUPERVISOR (Code: FNG- SR. SUP.)
- Preferably a graduate of engineering or any IT course.
- With at least 3 years experience in data networking in any telecommunications/IT company
- With experience in project management/Financial Analysis
- Computer literate (Visio, MS Access, Corel)
- With good interpersonal skills

Interested applicants are requested to submit their Letter of Application and Resume with 2x2 picture: (Please indicate the **Job Code**)

Strategic Staffing Services

3/F Globe Telecom Plaza
Pioneer cor. Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City 1552

or E-mail address:
careers@globetel.com.ph

Deadline for submission is on November 5, 2001

Visit our website @ **www.globe.com.ph**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/SR.OFFICER (Code: ADMIN)
- Will participate and implement process improvement projects
- Responsible in maintaining client relationship by resolving after-sales concerns
- Will screen and process applications for new lines
- Preferably with credit / customer service background
- Computer Literate (MS office applications)
- Should be articulate, fluent in English
- Graduate of any four-year course

FACILITIES ENGINEER (Code: LMSG-FE)
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineer , preferably licensed
- Not more than 30 years old
- With at least three years experience in Facilities Maintenance in supervisory capacity
- Knowledgeable in air conditioning system operation and maintenance, power generating equipment /basic electrical system operation and maintenance-Willing to be assigned in Batangas Province.
- With driving skills

ACCOUNT ANALYST (Code: AA)
- Graduate of any four –year business course
- At least one year experience in credit and customer-related work
- Computer Literate (MS office applications)
- Good command in written and oral communication
- Highly analytical and excellent in credit evaluation
- Team oriented and possesses a well-developed skill in follow-up and follow-through
- With remarkable typing speed

PRODUCT MANAGER (Code: FNG-PM)
- College graduate from reputable university, preferably UP, Ateneo, or DLSU with B.S. Marketing or any related courses
- At least 2 years experience in brand management with revenue responsibilities
- Has successfully launched or sustained a brand / service in the market
- Exposure to advertising and co-marketing activities is an advantage

SENIOR ENGINEER (Code: LMSG-SR. ENG.)
- Must be a licensed professional Mechanical Engineer
- Has at least three years extensive experience in mechanical works
- Has a valid driver's license
- Computer literate
- Experienced in design and investigation aspect on complex facilities is an advantage

CASHIERS (Code: FIN-CRS)
- Graduates of any 4-yr business course preferably in Accounting or Banking & Finance (belonging to the top 20% of his/her graduating class; Fresh graduates are welcome to apply)
- Experience as Cashiers or Tellers would be an advantage
- Knowledge in reports preparation
- With unquestionable integrity
- Willing to be assigned in any of our Business Centers nationwide
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Good in oral and written communication

INSYNC

INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

Our client, a progressive multinational company and a recognized world leader in the service industry, is in urgent need of young, dynamic and highly qualified candidates for the following positions:

CREDIT CONTROL MANAGER

(code: CCM)

THE JOB: The successful candidate will manage and lead the Credit and Collection Section, ensuring the efficient and effective credit review of customers and collection of accounts receivables, as well as the preparation of management reports.

THE REQUIREMENTS: The ideal candidate is a graduate of any business course, with at least four years experience in credit and collection, two years of which is in a managerial capacity. Preference will be given to those with experience in low value but high volume transactions. He or she must have very good analytical and numerical aptitudes, as well as excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and computer skills.

CREDIT CONTROL CLERKS

(code: CCC)

THE JOB: The successful candidates will be involved in credit control and collection functions.

THE REQUIREMENTS: Candidates should be graduates of any business course, with at least two years experience in credit and collection, preferably obtained from companies with high volume transactions. Strong numerical aptitude, very good negotiation and people skills, and computer proficiency are necessary requisites.

*Please send your resumé with application letter, including contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code on the envelope), on or before **October 26, 2001** to:*

Institutional Synergy, Inc.
Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or, e-mail to: execsearch@insync.com.ph
Or, send via fax number: (02) 636-8113

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- Supervisors

Female, not over 35 years old, with at least two (2) years work experience in all accounting operations in the same capacity, proficient in computer software applications and willing to be assigned in any SM Group of Companies.

SELLING SUPERVISORS

Female, not over 35 years old, graduate of any 4-year business course, with at least one (1) year experience in retail operations, food chains or sales in the same capacity and with well-developed human relations and decision making skills.

Interested parties may apply personally from Mon. to Fri., 9am - 5pm or send their comprehensive resume with recent photo to:

The Recruitment Division Manager
400 Carlos Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila

(Please bring 3 pcs. 2 x 2 colored picture with white background and original copy of College Diploma and Transcript of Records).

E-mail: Recruit.SM.HO@sm.shoemart.com

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We are a joint-venture with Mitsubishi of Japan, no. 1 in our industry and an ISO - 9001 certified company. We have vacancies for:

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

The candidate shall be responsible for the direct supervision and control over the administrative functions of the company. He is expected to systematize administrative work and procedures. He must have extensive experience in the areas of general services, warehouse and inventory control, grounds and building maintenance, security and safety, and purchasing.

The ideal applicant must be a graduate of any course in business or engineering, preferably with MBA units. He must have at least five (5) years supervisory experience in a medium-to-large scale business entity. He must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office and holder of a driver's license.

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The candidate shall assist the Senior Manager for Administration and Finance in the supervision and control over the accounting requirements of the company. He/she is expected to systematize accounting functions and procedures. He/she must have extensive experience in the areas of payroll and payable, credit and collection, cost accounting, general accounting and financial accounting in a computerized environment.

The ideal applicant must be 30 to 40 years old, a graduate of B.S. Accountancy, and a Certified Public Accountant. He/she must have at least five (5) years experience in a similar capacity from a medium-to-large scale business entity. He/she must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office.

SALES ENGINEER

He/she will be responsible in handling sales inquiries; preparing cost estimates, bid specifications and contracts; sourcing out clients/customers and coordinating with other trade contractors. He /she must be able to market and sell Mitsubishi elevators and escalators or air-conditioning units.

The candidate must be between 20 to 28 years old and a graduate of any business or engineering related courses from a reputable school. Computer literate (MS Office and preferably AutoCAD) and holder of a valid driver's license. The ideal applicant must be aggressive, determined and good in oral and written communication. Experience in sales of the said equipment is not required but an advantage.

The successful applicants for the above positions can expect a competitive compensation package. Interested parties should apply with credentials and photo personally or by mail post-marked not later than November 10, 2001 to:

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.
Km. 21.5 West Service Road, South Super Highway Cupang, Muntinlupa City
(Between Sucat and Alabang Interchanges, near Alabang Hills Village)
Tel. # 8423161 to 64
Fax # 8423160 / 8093706

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By joining our company, you'll get this and more. You'll immediately start promising career in real estate with an industry leader.

Crown Asia, the acknowledged leader in the real estate business for the last 6 years, sets out to surpass its own premium projects and accomplishments with a colossal expansion program within Metro Manila starting this month. Crown Asia has built a solid reputation for developing self-contained communities offering the best quality houses at the most affordable prices. Cottonwood Heights, Mala Alta, La Brea, Villa Alegria and Nova Romania are just some of the communities it has developed.

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Sales Managers and Property Consultants

QUALIFICATIONS:
> Male or Female, between 20-40 years old
> At least College Graduate
> with good Communication Skills
> Ambitious, Aggressive and Hardworking
> Willing to be trained
> *Preferably with his/her own car

You may hand-carry your resume with 2x2 recent photo on Oct 22 & 23 at the 2nd flr. Crown Asia Center 827 Aurora Blvd. Cubao, Quezon City
Look for Mann Alino
Tel. No: 410-0465

Crown Asia

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APTi

Research & Development is a way of life in APTi-Philippines. We encourage our people to challenge present technologies to come up with better ones. In the highly volatile I.T. industry, we strive to be among the leaders to drive its growth and direction, anticipating the next stages of technology evolution.

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- Quality Assurance Services

We are looking for Highly Motivated and Experienced IT Professionals and Developers for the following:

Hardware Design Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of controller cards and ASICs, focusing on the printer market.
Qualifications:
- 1-3 years industry experience in digital design
- Experience in RTL synthesis and design flow is an advantage
- Proficiency in VHDL, Verilog or mixed-HDL design an advantage.
- Industry experience in Analog design is an advantage
- Experience in using industry level design tools an advantage

Software Design Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of software applications.
Qualifications:
- 1-3 years industry experience in software development using Visual C++ and Visual Basic
- Full Knowledge of Windows 9X environment
- Knowledge in Java, XML, and other web-related technologies is an advantage
- Knowledge in using SQL, MS SQL is an advantage
- Familiarity with Windows NT/2000 is an advantage

Device Driver Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of Various Device Drivers.
Qualifications:
- 1-3 years industry experience in developing device drivers under Windows, Unix,/Linux
- Must be proficient in Visual C/C++
- MCP Certification in Visual C++ would be an advantage

Firmware/Microcode Engineers

Main Job: Design and development of firmware for embedded systems.
Qualifications:
- 1-3 years experience in developing Embedded Systems (e.g. printer, cell phone, pager, PDA)
- Must be proficient in C/C++ and Assembly Language programming
- Must possess good logic
- RTOS knowledge would be an advantage
- Must be familiar with equipment such as osciliscope and logic analyzer

Project Leader

Main Job: To assume the role of a product leader who can control and manage the schedule, resources (incl. people and equipment) and quality of any given project. It also involves technical leadership which requires coping with latest technology in the computing industry.
Qualifications:
- 3 years work experience in the IT industry as a software programmer or PC hardware engineer.
- At least 1 year project management experience of IT projects (incl. software development)
- Knowledge and experience in various Operating Systems incl. Unix, Linux is an advantage
- Knowledge of Visual Basic, C/C++, XML, Java, Assembly, Lotus Notes Script, Win API Programming or Network Protocol is an advantage.

All applicants must be graduates of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, BS ECE, or other 4-5 years computer related course, not more than 30 years old. Japanese Language ability is an advantage. Candidates must possess Strong Leadership Skills, Solid Interpersonal Communication Skills, and must be a Team Player.

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- Opportunities to travel overseas

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For any inquiries, pls. call : **807-5521 (look for Ms. Rose Velarde) or (032) 344-0321 (look for Ms. Theresa Maxino).**

You may also send your resume (TEXT format only) through :
For Luzon Applicants you can Email at : ***jobs@aptiphils.com***
For Visayas-Mindanao you can Email at:
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abc store incorporated

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STORE MANAGERS (CODE: SM 001)
- ✓ Has extensive managing skills. At least one year experience in managing retail store/s.
- ✓ Computer literate.
- ✓ He or She should be 25-30 years of age.
- ✓ Preferably residing near Cainta and the Northern parts of Metro Manila.
- ✓ Has a very pleasing personality and a good moral character.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CODE:AE 002)
- ✓ Will be handling our wholesale transactions
- ✓ Highly Organized and Accurate when preparing reports.
- ✓ Single, Preferably Female , 21-25 years of age, Good Communication Skills.

SALES ASSOCIATES (CODE: SA 003)
- ✓ He or She should be 21-25 years of age, College graduate (Preferably IT courses).
- ✓ Preferably residing near Cainta and the Northern part of Metro Manila.
- ✓ Has a very pleasing personality. punctual and a good moral character.
- ✓ Experience in sales is an advantage.
- ✓ Computer Literate.

IT ASSOCIATE
- ✓ 21-25 years of age, college graduate.
- ✓ Must be proficient in both computer hardware and software.
- ✓ Very punctual and with a good moral character.

You can personally bring your resume or send them to: (Deadline until October 27)
Fax: 7275015
Mail: Unit I-10, G/F Pearl Lane, Virramall, Greenhills
E-Mail: ericferdinand@hotmail.com
Please address them to Mr. Roni Rubio

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- ☑ PRC license/teaching experience preferred but not necessary

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- Professional appearance and with pleasing personality
- College graduate from a reputable university
- Preferably with good sales background from a service-oriented company
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Chinese-speaking and experience in direct selling, a definite advantage

CLIENT ASSISTANTS TELEMARKETERS
- Female; between 21-28 years old
- Smart and personable
- College graduate from a reputable school
- With good communication skills
- Previous telemarketing experience, plus factor
- Enthusiastic with good people skills

NURSES PHYSICAL THERAPISTS
- BS Nursing/BS Physical Therapy graduate
- Licensed / board passer
- Female; 20-28 years old
- Personable and professional appearance
- With good communication skills & PR
- With or without experience

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Female; between 21 – 28 years old
- Accounting graduate with good scholastic rating
- With at least 1-2 years accounting work experience, preferably in general accounting or disbursement
- Computer literate, preferably MS Word and Excel
- Board passers / CPAs are welcome to apply

HOUSEKEEPING CLERKS
- Male or female; 21 – 28 years old
- High school graduate or college undergraduate
- Honest and industrious; neat appearance
- Can communicate effectively

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Email address: **makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph**
(Subject: **MF**)

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FinanciAL eReps™
Experience in the financial services industry, preferably in mutual funds and brokerage firms.
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Opportunity includes comprehensive training and certification in **stock brokerage as well as the possibility of training in the U.S.**

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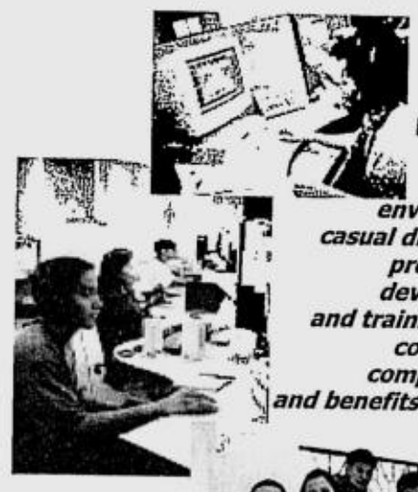
trainer
3-5 years' experience in **training** and in the **financial services industry.** Good working knowledge of adult educational concepts and the Internet. Excellent training and presentation skills. Experience with course development. Proficient in MS Word and PowerPoint. Excellent interpersonal skills.



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CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS
- Male or Female, not more than 28 y.o.;
- BS Nursing graduate;
- Very pleasing personality;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Computer literate.

AUDITORS / AUDIT CLERKS
- Male;
- Not more than 25 yrs. old;
- Accounting graduate with CPA review;
- Computer literate;
- Can travel for provincial audits.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES
- Female, single and not more than 28 y.o.;
- College graduate;
- Very pleasing personality;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Computer literate.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING:

PROGRAMMERS
- BS Computer Science graduate;
- Male or Female, not more than 25 y.o.;
- Preferably with experience;
- Computer literate.

ACTUARIAL ANALYSTS
- BS Applied Math/Statistics graduate of a school with good standing;
- Programming skills in Excel;
- 1 to 2 yrs. related work experience, an advantage;
- Preferably with 1 SA/ASP exam passed and/or masteral units in Actuarial Science.

CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- Female, not more than 25 y.o.;
- College graduate;
- Customer service oriented;
- Pleasing personality;
- Computer literate.

BRANCH PERSONNEL
- BS Accountancy graduate;
- Female, not more than 25 y.o.;
- Customer service oriented;
- Computer literate.

We offer guaranteed 14 to15 months compensation and competitive benefits package that includes rice subsidy, financial, housing and car loans at low interest rates, medical and HMO benefits, retirement benefit of as much as 2 months gross salaries for every year of service, and other special performance incentives.

Interested applicants must submit or mail their Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 picture to:

Ms. Kit G. Bituin
3F Cocolife Bldg.
6774 Ayala Ave., Makati
Or email to:
kit_bituin@cocolife.com
joann_adolfo@cocolife.com

Previous applicants need not apply.

UCPB GENERAL Insurance Co., Inc.

ASSISTANT AUDITORS
- ☑ Graduate of BS Accountancy
- ☑ CPA an advantage
- ☑ Not over 26 years old
- ☑ With auditing experience for at least 6 months
- ☑ Very analytical
- ☑ Has good communication skills
- ☑ Computer knowledgeable (MS Applications)

MARKETING ASSISTANTS
- ☑ Graduate of any Business course
- ☑ Not over 30 years old
- ☑ With basic knowledge on underwriting & claims processes
- ☑ Excellent communication skills
- ☑ Computer knowledgeable (MS Applications)

UNDERWRITERS
- ☑ Graduate of any Business course
- ☑ Not over 25 years old
- ☑ Knowledge on basic underwriting processes an advantage
- ☑ Has good communication skills
- ☑ Computer knowledgeable (MS Applications)

PROCESSORS
- ☑ Graduate of any Business course
- ☑ Not over 25 years old
- ☑ Has good communication skills
- ☑ Computer knowledgeable (MS Applications)

CLERKS
- ☑ Graduate of any Business course
- ☑ Not over 25 years old
- ☑ Has good communication skills
- ☑ Computer knowledgeable (MS Applications)

Applicants may bring their Resumé, Transcript of Records and 2x2 colored picture; or

Mail their application letters with the above documents to: **Human Resources and Administrative Services Department,** UCPB Gen, 24th Floor LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail to personnel@ucpbgen.com - **strictly no attachments**

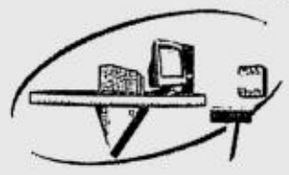
The FAST STEP towards finding the best JOBS.

JOBMarket ONLINE

MSI Digiland

MSI-Digiland (Phils.), Inc. is a regional distributor of I.T. products. MSI-Digiland has established a Pervasive Alliance with major IT companies including Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Sony, Apple, Cisco and Oracle, among others.

We reserved this seat just for YOU...



ASSISTANT SALES & MARKETING MANAGER (Commodity)
Reporting directly to the AVP - Consumer Group, the ASMM shall provide overall leadership to teams of sales & marketing professionals handling the commodity product line i.e. monitors, motherboards, digital cameras, and storage media devices. Applicants should be Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates with at least 2 years managerial experience in sales & marketing specifically gained from the IT INDUSTRY.

RETAIL SALES MANAGER
The RSM shall be in charge of all IT sales & marketing initiatives in the retail industry. She will manage a team of Merchandisers assigned in major retail/department store chains. We are focusing our search on Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates, preferably those who have established a strong sales & marketing career in the retail set-up, possessing excellent communication and people-handling skills.

PRODUCT MANAGERS (Cisco, Software, Commodity)
Successful candidates shall be tasked to provide overall product management for their respective product lines. This shall involve the conceptualization of effective advertising and/or promotional campaigns, sound management and control over advertising/marketing budgets, inventory forecasting, pricing strategies and other marketing initiatives aimed at creating product awareness and in attaining profit goals. Candidates should be imbued with excellent communication and people-handling skills. Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates, possessing technical backgrounds in computer technology, with at least 2 years experience as a marketing professional obtained from reputable IT firms.

TECHNICAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR
Reporting directly to the Service Division Manager, he/she shall be in charge of the Service Center composed of teams of Service Engineers, Technicians and Customer Service Staff. He/she shall ensure excellent technical services to clients in the areas of troubleshooting, repair and/or maintenance of IT products. Desired candidate should have adequate people-handling skills, with at least 1 year supervisory experience obtained from an IT company.

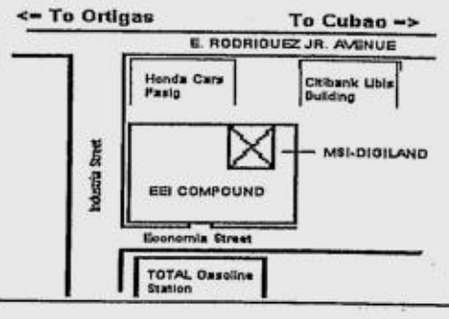
SALES OFFICERS (IBM, Software)
The Sales Officers shall be tasked to engage in sales of IT products. Their activities shall involve maintaining the productivity of the sales channels, developing prospective clients and establishing a strong appeal for products and services. Desired candidates should be goal-oriented, possessing excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills. Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates with at least 1 year IT sales experience.

WAREHOUSE COORDINATOR
The Warehouse Coordinator shall be in charge of the efficient handling of merchandise. This shall include the proper receiving of shipments, preparation of deliveries, inspection of merchandise prior to release and other functions aimed at ensuring smooth warehousing operations. We entertain any 2- or 4-year course graduates, preferably those with skills in operating forklifts, and with at least 1 year related experience obtained from a distribution firm.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY
Successful candidate shall be assigned to the Sales & Marketing Group, performing secretarial functions. We welcome fresh graduates of Business or IT-related courses with good oral and written communication skills, highly organized and customer-oriented.

Only qualified applicants will be contacted. You may send your letter of application and comprehensive resume' with 2x2 colored photo to:

THE HR MANAGER
MSI-DIGILAND (PHILS.), INC.
Topy II Building, No. 3 Economia Street
Libis, Quezon City 1100
E-mail : dphr@msi-digiland.com.ph
Fax : (02) 638-4932



URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

BUSINESS WRITERS

For fast growing Philippine business and news magazine

Requirements:
- Preferably with 3 years writing experience in newspaper or magazine of general circulation
- Working knowledge of politics, business finance, economics
- Willing to work long hours
- Salary commensurate with skills and experience

Interested parties may send their resumé, picture and samples of work to:

P.O. BOX 2797 MCPO 1267
MAKATI CITY

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE, a joint venture between Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, the Philippines largest financial conglomerate, and the AXA Group, one of the world's leading insurance companies has immediate job openings:

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVE
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- at least 2 years business experience preferably in sales/customer service
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

MARKETING OFFICER
- graduate of marketing or any 4-year business-related course
- market-driven, assertive and customer-focused
- good oral and written communication skills

TRAINING OFFICER (Central Luzon & Visayas)
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- at least two (2) years experience as a Trainer/Instructor
- excellent communication skills
- computer literate
- good interpersonal skills

GROUP ADMIN SUPERVISOR
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- with background in collection, reinsurance & policy issuance
- preferably with supervisory experience
- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

MARKETING SUPPORT ASSISTANT
- female
- graduate of any 4-year business related course
- proficient in MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- preferably with background in sales support
- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

POLICY ADMIN STAFF
- male/female
- graduate of any 4 year business related course
- computer literate
- good oral and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills

Qualified candidates should send their resume, transcript of records and 2x2 photo not later than October 31, 2001 to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2390
Makati City 1200
Philippines

Member of the Metrobank Group

A fast growing Japanese electronics company located at Laguna Technopark, servicing clients such as Epson, Toshiba, Sharp, Sanyo, etc., is in urgent need of qualified and competent personnel:

(1) Surface Mount Technology (SMT) Manager

The successful candidate will be responsible for the effective and efficient management and administration of SMT Department by establishing procedures and ensuring maximum effective utilization of manpower, materials and equipment. Candidates must not be more than 40 years old, with at least 5 years experience in the same capacity in the same industry.

(1) Purchasing Manager

The chosen candidate for this position will be tasked to establish and implement procedures on all purchasing related activities. Candidates must not be more than 40 years old, with at least 5 years experience in the same capacity in the same industry.

(1) QC / QA Manager

The candidates for this position must have expertise on all quality control and assurance activities as well as implementation of policies to ensure conformity with quality standards and customers' specifications. Candidates must not be more than 40 years old, with at least 5 years experience in the same capacity in the same industry.

(2) Surface Mount Technology (SMT) Supervisors

The candidates must not be more than 35 years old, with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity. Must be well equipped with theoretical and hands-on experience in SMT process and procedures.

(2) QC / QA Supervisors

The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision of the department with focus on quality management and maximum utilization of manpower. Must not be more than 35 years old, with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity.

(2) Assembly Supervisors

The main responsibility of the chosen candidate shall focus on supervision of production output and maximum utilization of manpower and machines. Candidates must not be more than 35 years old, with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity.

(2) Purchasing Supervisors

The successful candidate shall oversee all the purchasing activities, i.e. procurement of production materials, machinery, equipment and tools. Candidates must not be more than 35 years old, with at least 3 years experience in the came capacity in a semicon company.

Since these positions are urgent requirements, interested applicants are requested to e-mail their detailed resumé preferably with picture at:

urgenthiring2001@yahoo.com
or
makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
subject : 2001

The best jobs are in

JOB Market ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

We are in need of highly motivated individuals who are looking for a career path and feel that they have management potential.

1. Company needs six (6) staff managers to successfully complete a 120-day training.
2. No experience required, only a "can do" attitude.
3. Must be a college graduate and can speak excellent English.

- Average staff manager income after training is at least P500,000.00 per annum (basic plus incentives).
- Average salary and incentives during training can exceed P250,000.00 per annum.
- We are associated with U.S. and U.K. companies.
- Successful managers can receive all-expenses paid trip to U.K. or U.S.
- Operations center is located in Mandaluyong City.

REMEMBER, YOU CANNOT SUCCEED UNLESS YOU TRY!

Ask for **Miss Nita** for an appointment at **(632) 535-8488**
E-mail: **jm1@inquirer.com.ph**
(Subject: Mega-EC)

EXPORT MANAGER

Responsible for creating marketing strategies to help ntroduce the brand abroad.

- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduates of Marketing, Business Administration, Customs Administration or any related courses
- With at least 2 years experience in the export and forwarding industry
- Strong entrepreneurial skills
- Excellent presentation and communication skills
- Must be people-oriented and enjoy fieldwork
- Able to function successfully in a fast-paced environment

VISUAL DISPLAY COORDINATORS

Responsible for conceptualization, design and implementation of visual merchandise and display standards.

- Responsible for implementing Visual Displays and basic store lay-out designs
- Fresh graduates of Fine Arts or Interior Design
- Highly creative with great sense of style
- Excellent in drawing, painting, and sketching
- General PC/MAC graphic illustration software skills required
- Must possess an eye for and a flair for fashion
- Must be adventurous and dedicated to his/her work

Great Jobs @

penshoppe
Outstanding Filipino Retailer 2000 & 2001

Qualified applicants may submit their application letter, resumè and 2x2 colored photo to:

The HR Manager, Penshoppe
62-Old Samson Road, Balintawak, Quezon City, Philippines 1106
or e-mail us at:
hrd@penshoppe.com

A **multinational company** in the service industry **URGENTLY** needs:

100 Service Providers

who possess the following qualifications:

- ✓ Male, 20 to 30 years old
- ✓ With at least 2 years of college or vocational education
- ✓ Good written and spoken English
- ✓ With valid driver's license
- ✓ Can work under pressure
- ✓ Must have a pleasant personality and customer relations capabilities

This is for **permanent employment** with a starting basic pay of PhP9,800.00/month with benefits plus an excellent opportunity for career advancement. Please call tel. nos. 750-6138 to 40 or come in person for immediate interview at the address below.

You may also fax your resumé at 751-7305 or send it via email at cesi@netasia.net.

** Those who are interested for Cebu assignment may also send resumés by fax.*

corporate executive search, inc.
Suite 1101 Medical Plaza Makati, Amorsolo corner Dela Rosa Streets
Legaspi Village, Makati City (at the back of Makati Medical Center)
Tel. Nos.: 750-6138 to 40; 751-7303 to 04 • Fax No.: 751-7305

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

Salsa Rossa Ristorante

Soon to open a branch in Libis
is now hiring:

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Female, with pleasing personality. Not more than 30 years old. H.R.M. graduate. With experience in managing restaurant.

RESTAURANT CHEF/COOK

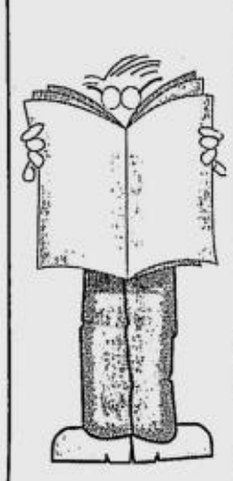
Not more than 30 years old. With experience in Italian cooking, honest, hardworking and flexible, willing to be trained.

WAITER/WAITRESS/BARTENDER

Not more than 26 years old, personable. Energetic and open minded, sales and service oriented. With experience and willing to be trained.

Please bring your resumé with picture and tel. no. on October 22 to 26, 2001 at Salsa Rossa Ristorante, Ground Floor, 8101 Pearl Plaza Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Where you find the best.



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Take the Global Sources challenge!

Global Sources (NASDAQ: GSOL) is the world's leading infomediary and neutral B2B market maker for volume buyers and suppliers worldwide.

Global Sources has been operating for 30 years, and has developed one of the world's most comprehensive databases of export products and suppliers. We offer a web-based 'end-to-end' e-commerce solution that enables our buyer community to interface electronically with suppliers worldwide in all phases of the supply chain management process. We are currently looking for an:

Editor/Managing Editor

The jobholder will manage the editorial operation and develop quality content for readers of our industry-specific sites and print magazines. The main responsibilities of this position are to provide relevant and timely market information to support the sourcing activities of volume buyers and suppliers, and to perform top-line editing, conduct key interviews and write original feature articles. Duties will include: overseeing a pool of freelance writers, meeting editorial deadlines, preparing and implementing editorial schedules and building close working relationships with our China-based buyers and suppliers.

We require a seasoned professional with a degree in Journalism or related field, excellent English skills and investigative reporting experience gained in a senior editing position, and the ability to work with people of varied nationalities in a dynamic and fast-paced environment. Those with good Mandarin skills and experience working abroad will have a definite advantage. Must be willing to travel and to be assigned from time-to-time to our China operation .

A competitive remuneration package and a truly international environment await the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
Online: www.globalsources.com/careers
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

technology that liberates

PRASolutions℠

PRA Solutions #3, LLC, a subsidiary of NAVITAIRE, Inc. at Minneapolis, USA, is a multinational company that is in the forefront of innovative information technology solutions and high-value business application development for the worldwide travel and airline industries.

We are inviting qualified individuals to fill in the following key positions for our Manila-based operations:

PROGRAMMERS/ ANALYSTS

- to participate in the development and maintenance of application software components (i.e. coding and system testing)
- with working knowledge of any of the following languages: ***Visual Basic 5.0, SQL Server 7, Unix, C, JAVA & Cobol programming***
- must possess a University Degree in the disciplines of Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering courses
- with good academic record from any of these reputable schools:
  ATENEO, DLSU, MAPUA, UP & UST
- must be self-directed and have strong leadership presence and business acumen
- with excellent oral and written communication skills

REVENUE ASSOCIATES

- to perform audit review, contract entry, and various tasks related to Business process services
- must possess a University degree from reputable schools and with good academic record
- must have good analytical skills and the ability to research and troubleshoot complicated audit matters
- able to navigate audit system conversation 'flow' with speed and accuracy
- must have good grasp of Microsoft Office Products
- with outstanding customer service orientation
- can work independently as well as in a team setting
- with excellent oral & written communication skills
- previous airline experience is a plus, but not required

COMPUTER OPERATORS

- to operate and monitor multiple operating systems with a focus on quality service delivery.
- to perform routine tasks like maintain computer equipment and their peripherals; observe peripheral equipment and error messages displayed on monitor of system terminal.
- to detect issues with batch schedules and take action based upon standard operating procedures.
- to analyze and resolve problems associated with server hardware and applications software.
- to detect, diagnose, and report related problems on servers.
- must possess a University degree from reputable schools with good academic record
- basic computer skills required
- with excellent oral & written English communication skills
- familiarity with UNIX, Lotus Notes, and NT a plus.
- must be available for coverage; willing to work long hours/on shifts
- previous computer operator experience is a plus

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- will work in a support role to augment operational and clerical requirements in keeping with the multi-tasking thrust of the operations group
- female, ages 20-25
- must be a graduate of any 4-year baccalaureate course, preferably in the areas of Arts, Business & Human Resources
- no experience required. Previous multi-national work experience is a plus
- must have excellent oral and written communication, organized and can work independently with minimal supervision
- with good interpersonal skills
- knowledgeable in Microsoft applications, MS Office & MS PROJECT
- can manage general reportorial and statistical needs of the operations group

Interested applicants may send their resume, recent photo, and official transcript of records to:
The Human Resources Department
PRA Solutions #3, LLC / NAVITAIRE, Inc.
16th Floor, Philamlife Tower Building,
8767 Paseo de Roxas Street, Makati City
Fax No: 757-0404
Email Address: HR.Manila@navitaire.com
(text form only)
Note: Applicants with complete requirements will be given priority.

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AMELLAR CORPORATION *Your Way to Digital Government.*
OLTP • GIS • Data Warehouse • Document Imaging • Web Applications

4 Training/ Analytical Data Controllers (T/ADC)
- Very Responsible
- Willing to Study and Learn Frequently
- Willing to Travel by Land, Sea, or Air
- Must Pass the Company Exam and Interview
- Preferably New Graduates

Compensation Package

Three (3) Months Training	PhP7,500/ Month Allowance
Starting Pay	PhP10,000/ Month Plus Incentives and Bonuses

Company potentials for international operations are likely.
Submit resumé and cover letter to:
The Technology Manager
OLTP Division
Amellar Corporation
c/o The Administrative Officer

The company reviewer will be made available only to the 30 best applicants who shall be eligible to take the Company Exam. Your school or course will *not* determine your fate. YOU make your fate. Timid applicants need not apply.

Visit our website at www.amellar.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

STORE SUPERVISOR
- M/F, 25-30 years old
- At least one year experience at retail store
- Good communication skills
- With pleasing personality

OFFICE CLERK/ INVENTORY CLERK
- Female, single
- Not more than 25 years of age
- College graduate
- Computer literate
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- At least one year related experience
- With pleasing personality

WAREHOUSE CLERK
- M/F, Single, not more than 25 years old
- College graduate
- At least one year related experience
- With pleasing personality

BRANCH CASHIER
- Female, Single
- Not more than 25 years of age
- Preferably with experience as cashier
- Computer literate
- College level
- With pleasing personality

SALES DEMO
- M/F, not more than 25 years of age
- Willing to be assigned in any branch
- High School graduate or College level
- With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may come personally at:
SPORTS HOUSE INTERNATIONAL LEISURE, INC.
19 Pecton Bldg., Gilmore Avenue,
New Manila, Quezon City
Look for Jennette or you may call us at 721-2480 / 721-5553
E-mail us at: sports@sportshouse.com.ph

THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA (WBOM)

IS RECRUITING AN EXPERIENCED

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

1. As part of the World Bank's decentralization strategy, the World Bank office in Manila requires a highly experienced NRM specialist who would carry out major responsibilities for Natural Resource Management (NRM) and related agricultural tasks covering primarily the Philippines.
2. As a member of the Bank's Rural/NRM sector team, the NRM specialist (based in the Manila Office) would provide the primary NRM expertise to support RD/NRM pipeline development, new project processing, project review/supervision, and sector policy analysis, NRM dialogue and strategy work. All important component of the responsibilities outlined above includes building partnerships with various stakeholders (national and local governments, NGOs, peoples' organizations, donors), and working in a multidisciplinary team and other sector units.
3. Skills and Competencies: Fully proficient/specialist in the following areas:
   - State-of-the-art knowledge of operational, technical and project NRM and RD issues, and ability to address such issues across sectors and at the country level;
   - Leadership ability in all phases of the Project cycle and sector work;
   - Ability to ensure the quality of portfolio performance management, especially involving NRM tasks;
   - Proven ability to conceptualize, design and implement major projects, with strong NRM component;
   - Demonstrated analytical understanding of the functional and institutional relationships within the NRM sector and across a number of related sectors;
   - Ability to promote client/beneficiary participation and commitment to ensuring effective implementation and longer-term sustainability of projects/programs, with strong NRM components;
   - Ability to lead a team of professionals in the execution of major tasks, especially having high NRM component, as well as being a strong team member;
   - Ability to deal sensitively in multi-cultural environments and build effective work relations with clients, NGOs and colleagues;
   - Ability to coordinate and facilitate efforts in all phases of the project cycle and sector work.
4. Educational Background and Work Experience
   - M.A. in relevant NRM field or equivalent relevant experience (e.g., forestry management, with strong community-based orientation), and undergraduate degree in relevant field (preferably agriculture/agronomy);
   - At least 10 years of proven relevant work experience, preferably with relevant cross-country experience.
5. Terms: Initially, the appointment is on a 2-year fixed-term basis, subject to renewal. Compensation package is attractive and competitive with Manila-based market, and offers attractive, challenging and professional growth opportunities in working for a global organization.
6. Suitably qualified candidates are requested to submit their expressions of interest with biodata, academic records, reference contact information, sample copy of a completed written technical paper and latest photo not later than October 30, 2001 (by c.o.b.). Those who applied for similar position before need not apply. Applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.

Send the above to:
The Administrative Officer
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
5/F Building B SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

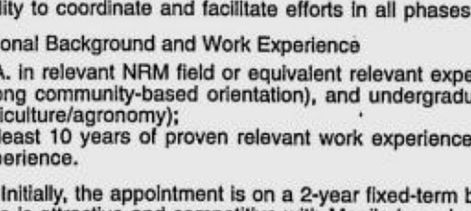
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- College graduate/Medical course/Business related course
- Preferably Nurse who may handle patient as well
- At least one year experience in selling preferably in medical supplies
- Female, single, 22 to 30 years old
- Computer literate
- Pleasing personality and proficient in oral and written communications
- Friendly and able to relate well with customers

TECHNICAL/SERVICE ENGINEER
- ECE graduate
- Preferably licensed
- Computer literate
- At least one year experience
- Excellent in interpersonal relations and have good work habits
- 22 to 28 years old
- Preferably with Driver's License

Interested applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé with 2x2 picture to:
MEDTRONIX Medical Supplies & Equipment
Suite 407 Pasda Mansion
#77 Panay Avenue corner Timog, Quezon City
medtronx@philonline.com

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.



JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

SM Retail Affiliates offer *CAREER OPPORTUNITIES* for our existing branches in *Metro Manila, Cebu, Pampanga, Iloilo* and soon to open branch in *Davao*

STORE MANAGERS
Responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets
- Male or female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any four-year course
- With previous managerial or supervisory experience in the field of retail sales or marketing
- Can relate well with all types of people

STORE SUPERVISORS
Perform specific functions in store operations which include personnel supervision, merchandise display, stocks, and sales monitoring
- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any four-year course
- Preferably with supervisory work experience in retail operations
- Possess strong leadership skills to effectively direct a team of store personnel
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills

BUYERS
- College graduate, not more than 30 years old
- With at least 1 year experience in merchandise procurement, sampling and inventory management

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS
Responsible for supervising the warehouse operations such as receiving, dispatching, and inventory control in a retail set-up
- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any four-year course
- With at least 3 years supervisory work experience in all aspects of warehouse operations preferably in a retail or trading entity
- Trustworthy, can strictly enforce warehousing procedures

LICENSED PHARMACISTS
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- With at least 6 months related experience

ACCOUNTING / TREASURY / PERSONNEL ASSISTANTS
- Female, not over 25 years old
- Graduates of Accounting, Psychology, Business Management or any related course
- Computer literacy will be an advantage

Successful candidates will be assigned to any of the SM Affiliate-Retail companies engaged in

COSMETICS AND PERFUMERY • HOME FURNISHINGS • APPLIANCES • HARDWARE • TOYS
INFANTS' ACCESSORIES • STATIONERIES • FASHION CLOTHES • DRUGSTORES • SUPERMARKET

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume with 1 x 1 photo to:

HR AFFILIATES
SM Head Office - Annex
400 San Diego Bldg. Carlos Palanca Sr. St., Echague, Quiapo, Manila
or e-mail at
Recruit.HRAff.HO@sm-shoemart.com

SEAD SERVICES (PEZA), INC.
Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Block 23 Phase IV
Rosario, Cavite

If you're a dynamic, hardworking individual and possess the qualifications we are looking for then apply now... and be part of one of the largest wood manufacturing company in Asia.

For External Hiring

Assistant Supervisor for Training
- ☐ Female 25-30 years of age
- ☐ A graduate of Behavioral Science or Psychology graduate
- ☐ With experience in all phases of human resource is an advantage
- ☐ With knowledge in the preparation, conducts & evaluation of TNA
- ☐ Can communicate in all levels of the organization
- ☐ Can effectively conduct training programs
- ☐ Can make training, modules

Assistant Supervisors (for production and maintenance)
- ☐ Male / Female at least 20-30 years old
- ☐ Graduate of any Engineering course
- ☐ With at least 6 months related supervisory work experience
- ☐ Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- ☐ With knowledge in machine operation for wooden product

MIS Technician
- ☐ Graduate of BS Computer Science major in Computer Technician or Computer Engineering
- ☐ Male/Female between 21 – 27 years of age
- ☐ Client-oriented
- ☐ Knowledgeable in Win NT/98, TCP/IP, PBX, PC troubleshooting (Hardware and Software)

With six months experience in the following:
-Server / LAN Admin
-Telephone Technician
-Data Communication

Data Encoder
- ☐ Male/Female between 21-27 years old
- ☐ Graduate of Computer Science or any computer related course
- ☐ With experience in office work and has numerical ability
- ☐ People-oriented and can work on extended hours

Accounting Staff
- ☐ Female 21-27 yrs. old
- ☐ Graduate of Accountancy
- ☐ With 1 or 2 yrs. of experience
- ☐ People-oriented and can work on extended hours
- ☐ Aggressive, analytical and assertive

Production Based

Truck Head Driver (urgent hiring)
- ☐ Male at least 30 up to 40 yrs. of age
- ☐ High school or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- ☐ Experience in Driving Truck Head
- ☐ Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- ☐ With professional Driver's License(R Code- 6 & 3,2,1,)

Forklift Operator (urgent hiring)
- ☐ At least High School/Vocational/College Level
- ☐ Male bet. 20-27 years old
- ☐ With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- ☐ With Professional Driver's License
- ☐ Good moral character

You can mail or hand-carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries, call telephone nos. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Christian or Ehmee or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@yahoo.com

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TIMA MECHANICAL CO. of KUWAIT
With Accreditation # 66451 is in need of:

MECHANICAL ENGINEER & CHEMICAL ENGINEER
Eng'g. graduate, min. 4 years exp. in swimming pool field, fluent in English
AUTOCAD DRAFTSMAN
Architecture graduate or vocational course, min. 3 years experience, fluent in English
DESIGNER
Architecture graduate or vocational course, min. 2 years exp. in waterfall design
MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
Vocational graduate, knowledge in Electronics is an advantage, min. 2 years exp. in swimming pool field
ELECTRICIAN
Vocational graduate, min. 2 years experience, Certified is an advantage
PLUMBER
Vocational graduate, min. 2 years experience, Certified is an advantage
MAINTENANCE LABOR
H.S. graduate, min. 2 years experience in swimming pool field
MASON
H.S. graduate, min. 2 years experience
SECRETARY
College grad., min. 3 years exp., with computer knowledge, exp. in Admin. is an advantage

Final Interview with Employer on Nov. 6, 2001

All candidates must be MALE, below 35 years old, 5'2" in height, and can speak, read and understand English. Applicants must apply personally and bring 2 sets of the ff: Resumé, NBI clearance, Diploma, Cert. of Employment/Training, 2x2 picture, Passport copy, original passport & other credentials to:

A&A INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES SPECIALIST
POEA LIC.# 229-LB-070601-NL
109 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong, Pasig City / Tel. Nos. 6873252 / 6872503

No fees to be collected*Mag-ingat sa illegal recruiters*This ads is allowed under MC-2.

ABSOLUTELY NO PLACEMENT FEE
BOUSHARI GROUP W.L.L. OF SPECIALITIES DIVISION KUWAIT
Accreditation # 65634

URGENTLY needed:

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
- Female, 23-39 years old, preferably single
- College graduate from a reputable school
- Good oral and written communication skills
- With excellent people interaction skills
- With min. 2 years experience as Admin./Exec. Secretary
- Willing to travel around the world

We offer ***$1,000.00 monthly basic salary***, career opportunities, and Professional advancement to the successful candidate.

Final interview with Employer on Oct. 25, 2001

Applicants must apply personally and bring 2 sets of the ff: Resumé, NBI clearance, Diploma, Cert. of Employment/Training, 2x2 picture, Passport copy, original passport, Whole body picture and other credetials to:

A&A INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES SPECIALIST
POEA LIC.# 229-LB-070601-NL
109 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 6873252 / 6872503

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WG&A VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

William, Gothong and Aboitiz, Inc. (WG&A), the largest shipping company in the country and the leader in the shipping industry, is engaged in passenger transport and cargo liner services, plying major routes and principal ports across the archipelago. WG&A holds the distinction of being the first shipping company in the Philippines to have received the prestigious International Ship Management (ISM) Code certification for its high standards on safety management, environmental protection, emergency preparedness, maintenance of the ship requirements, qualified and well-trained crew, and development plans for shipboard operations.

To complement its growing business, WG&A is in need of dynamic, self-driven and competent people to fill-in the following vacant positions:

SALES MANAGER

Basic Functions: Responsible in training and developing sales people under Sales and Marketing Department of Freight Division. Analyzing and strategizing performance of sales organization. Provide assistance in devising and implementing plans and strategies to meet both revenue generation and collection targets through effective deployment of company assets and resources, promoting and maintaining an ideal sales relationship with present customer assignment.

Requirements:
A graduate of a 4-year course. Must have at least 5 years experience in successful selling and handling sales people. Experience in a shipping company an advantage. Should be physically fit. Age is between 28 to 35 years old.

PRICING AND YIELD MANAGER

Basic Functions: Responsible for planning, organizing and controlling the different activities and action plans of the team. He/She shall provide the guidance and direction to the other team members in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities.

Requirements:
A graduate of a 4-year course, preferably Accounting or a CPA. Must have an experience in managerial accounting and profitability analysis. Should be familiar with shipping rules, regulations and industry practices. Must be highly analytical and hardworking.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Basic Functions: Responsible in various sales functions of Sales and Marketing Department under Freight Division. Generally responsible in prospecting clients for possible generation of new accounts, maintains existing accounts and regularly do sales planning and sales analysis.

Requirements: College graduate with 2 years sales experience. Background in sales and account management is preferred. Age is between 24-30 years old.

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resumé, Transcript of Records and 2x2 ID picture to ***MS. ANGIE DAVID. Human Resources for Results, WG&A 11th Floor, Times Plaza Building, United Nations corner Taft Avenue, Manila, Tel. No. 528-7701 or email through*** *jobs@wgasuperferry.com.*

A fast growing group of companies is in need of topnotch individuals to join its dynamic workforce

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
Our search is focused on female CPA, who is well-versed in all facets of Accounting procedures. Hired applicant will oversee the whole Accounting Department and maintain an adequate system of financial and internal controls.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (AS)
Female, Accounting graduate, computer literate and can work under minimum supervision.

MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS (MO)
Successful candidates will be tasked to formulate and implement marketing plans, covering advertising and promotions. They will conduct market research, survey and feasibility studies.

Candidates must be college graduates, with pleasing personality, excellent communication skills, willing to travel and with at least three years related work experience, preferably gained in a trading company.

MANUFACTURING ASSISTANTS (MA)
The ideal candidate must be a graduate of Electrical, Mechanical or Electronics Engineering. Thoroughly familiar with plastic manufacturing process. Knowledge in trouble shooting of pneumatic machines and plastic German molding machine is a must.

HRM INSTRUCTORS (HRMI)
Must be a graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Mgnt., with excellent communication skills and with pleasing personality.

COMPUTER INSTRUCTORS (CI)
Must be a computer degree holder, with excellent communication skills and pleasing personality. Must be able to teach Programming, Networking, Multi-media Technology and Web-page Design.

Applicants for AS, AA, MO, and MA are requested to apply to:

EURO-PACIFIC LINK INT'L. CORP.
199 Ermin Garcia Street,Cubao,Quezon City / PO BOX AC433

Applicants for HRMI and CI, are requested to apply to

INFORMATION AND INDUSTRIAL INST. OF TECH.
3rd Floor, Don Herminia Building II, Don Mariano Marcos Avenue
Fairview, Quezon City (Atop P & C Supermarket)
Tel. Nos. 938-83-19; 938-83-20

Pioneer
REPUBLIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

The country's leading manufacturer of adhesives, sealants, and packaging materials is looking for qualified individuals to fill in the following positions:

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
(Laguna Based)
Male, 25-35 years old
Graduate of BS Chemical Engineering
(Licensed)
With at least five (5) years related work experience in a manufacturing set-up.
Familiar with Quality System (ISO 9002)
Computer Literate

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CHEMIST
(Laguna Based)
Female, 25-35 years old
Graduate of BS Chemistry
(Licensed)
With at least five (5) years experience in paint, coatings or adhesives.
Familiar with Quality System (ISO 9002)
Computer Literate

NURSE/PERSONNEL SERVICES ASSISTANT
(Laguna Based)
Female, 21-25 years old
Graduate of BS Nursing (Licensed)
With at least one (1) year experience in Industrial Setting
Knows different Health and Safety Techniques
Computer Literate

If you meet the above requirements, Don't Waste Time! Send your Curriculum Vitaé with latest photo or come see us at:

REPUBLIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.
731 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City
Tel. No. 721-5781 to 87 loc 203 Fax No. 721-9199
E-mail: mitybond@repchem.com

Urgently needs young professionals
(PART-TIME, FULL-TIME, CONSULTANTS)

- ❖ **MARKETING EXECUTIVES**
(AT LEAST WITH 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ANY FORM OF MARKETING/SELLING JOB)
- ❖ **GENERAL CLERK**
(MUST BE WITH ACCOUNTING BACKGROUND AND COMPUTER LITERATE)
- ❖ **PROGRAMMERS**
(KNOWLEDGEABLE IN ANY VISUAL BASIC, JAVA, SQL, ORACLE)
- ❖ **SYSTEM ANALYST**
(AT LEAST WITH 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS SYSTEM ANALYST, KNOWLEGEABLE IN ANY PROGRAMMING, TECHNICAL AND E-COMMERCE ASPECTS)
- ❖ **WEB DEVELOPERS**
(KNOWLEDGEABLE IN DREAMWEAVER, FLASH, FIREWORKS, ADOBE)
- ❖ **GRAPHIC ARTISTS**
- ❖ **e-COMMERCE TECHNICIAN**
(KNOWLEDGEABLE IN LINUX, WIN NT, WAN, WIRELESS, ISP SET-UP)
- ❖ **CONSULTANTS**
(PROJECT MANAGER IN E-COMMERCE BUSINESS)

NOTE: ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE A GRADUATE OF ANY 4 YEARS DEGREE COURSE WITH COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE IN COMPUTER
Please send your resumé with 2x2 current picture

ISON INFO SYSTEMS, INC.
2140 Fidel Reyes Street, near Quirino LRT Station, Malate, Tel. No. 524-0660
email: vangie_son@hotmail.com

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

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With 44 call centers worldwide, Sykes is a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies. From its Manila Call center, Sykes currently supports 15 clients in 6 languages, handling the transactions throughout Asia, Europe and the USA.

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Real People. Real Solutions.

Quality Assurance Assistant Manager (QA AM)
- BS Industrial Engineering graduate with at least 3 years supervisory experience
- At least 3 years experience in implementing quality standards, a requirement
- Quality assurance experience in a call center, preferred
- Excellent English communication skills, including phone handling skills
- Proven excellence in business writing and negotiation skills
- Adept in Microsoft Office, MS Outlook and the Internet

Customer Service Representatives (EURO CSR)
- College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
- Excellent typing skills; working knowledge on different computer applications and the Internet
- Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- Fluent in any European languages (Spanish, French, German, Italian)

Technical Support Engineers – Asian Languages (TSE – Asian Lang)
- College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
- Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- Has working knowledge on the Internet and other computer applications
- Fluent in any of the following languages:
  - Mandarin
  - Korean
  - Japanese

Technical Support Engineers (English TSE)
- College graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
- Basic understanding of computer architecture and dial-up connections
- Working knowledge on Windows platform, Microsoft applications and the Internet
- Strong customer service orientation and willing to work on shifting schedule
- Excellent verbal and written English communication skills

JRun Technical Support Engineers (JR TSE)
- Adept in JAVA Programming and is capable of providing general JRun installation and configuration assistance and must have a familiarity with HTTP specifications
- Technical knowledge on any Macromedia products or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- Multimedia and/or internet development experience with expertise on ASP, JSP,Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- Extensive experience in HTML, Servlet programming, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting

ColdFusion Technical Support Engineers (CF TSE)
- Experience with ColdFusion or ColdFusion Studio
- Technical knowledge on any Macromedia products or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment required
- Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
- Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- Basic knowledge of RDBMS and JavaScript

Macromedia Technical Support Engineers (MTSE)
- Technical knowledge on any Macromedia products (Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, Authorware, Director, Freehand, UltraDev)
- Multimedia and/or Internet development experience with expertise on ASP, Javascript, JSP, Java, VBScript, XML and other related programming languages
- Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows , Macintosh or Unix
- Extensive experience in HTML, webservers, networking configuration, TCP/IP and advanced software troubleshooting
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Proven skills in business writing and phone handling
- Strong customer service orientation, analytical, results-oriented and a team player
- Willingness to work on a shifting schedule is essential

TOYOTA

We are in search of highly qualified individuals to fill-in the position of

MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male or female, not more than 28 years old
- Preferably B.S. Marketing graduate
- With pleasing personality
- With excellent communication skills
- Self-motivated and results-oriented
- People-oriented
- Willing to build a career in Sales
- Applicants with valid Driver's License are preferred

IF YOU ARE WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

Please submit your Comprehensive Resumé with Transcript of Records and colored 2x2 picture from Monday to Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. not later than October 31, 2001 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE
Toyota Pasong Tamo, Inc.
2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 893-8084 loc. 126, 128
Previous applicants need not apply.

NURSES-Immigrate to the USA with your family!
A Healthcare company with facilities all over USA is in urgent need of more than 300 nurses. Qualified applicants will be sponsored for immigration. ***No agency fees will be collected.***

If you are a **registered nurse with at least 2 years of experience** and have **passed the CGFNS exam**— send your resumé, 3 passport-sized colored pictures and **photocopies** of the following documents:

1. CGFNS certificate, TOEFL & TSE results
2. College transcript of records, college diploma
3. RN license certificate (PRC)/RN board rating
4. RN license ID (front & back)
5. Birth certificate (If married, include your spouse's & children's birth cert.)

to: The Recruitment Officer
1211 LONGFORD CIR.
ELGIN, IL.
USA 60120

As soon as we receive all the requirements, a competent lawyer will start processing your papers. You will have an immigrant visa after passing the embassy interview which means you could bring your family with you at once. This process takes about 12 months. You will be given free plane ticket to your state of destiny. We will try our best to send you to the state of your choice where you have relatives and friends. We understand the need of having people you can trust during your adjustment period.

RAMCAR GROUP OF COMPANIES

PRODUCTION ENGINEER (Plastics)
- 24 to 35 years old; Male; BS ME / ECE / EE graduate; With 1 year experience in a manufacturing firm and at least 2 years experience in plastic making; SPC and computer literate; Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

DRCC CUSTODIAN
- 21 to 26 years old; Male or Female; Graduate of any 2-year course, preferably computer related; With experience in documentation and DRCC work function; Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

QA AUDITORS
- 22 to 28 years old; Male; Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering; Must have exposure on ISO 9001 and preferably on Statistical Process Control and Calibration; Highly computer literate; Keen on details and with good interpersonal skills; Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

SHIFT/CADET ENGINEER
- 24 to 27 years old; Male; Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering; Willing to be assigned in Marilao, Bulacan.

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN
- 21 to 28 years old; Male; Graduate of Electronics / Instrumentation and Control Technology; With exposure in Industrial equipment; Knowledge in PLC will be an advantage; Will be assigned in Quezon City.

QA LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
- 22 to 25 years old; Male; Graduate of any Engineering course but preferably Chemical Engg., Chemistry or Mechanical Engg.; Have worked in an ISO certified company laboratory facilities; Computer literate; Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

PRODUCTION ENGINEER (Assembly)
- 23 years old and above; Male; BS ME / ECE graduate; With experience in manufacturing and machine maintenance; Trained in SPC and TPM; Computer literate; Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

HR ASSOCIATE
- 28 to 33 years old; Male or Female; Graduate of BS Psychology / HR Management; With at least 5 years related experience in a manufacturing plant; Knowledgeable in OD Methodology; Computer literate; Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

PROCESS ENGINEERS
- 20 to 30 years old; Male; Graduate of BS Chem. Engineering, preferably licensed; With at least 2 years experience as Process Engr. or R&D Engr. gained from a manufacturing firm; Experience from ITDI an advantage; Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

QUALITY SYSTEMS ENGINEER
- 23 to 30 years old; Male; Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering; Has working knowledge of ISO 9001: 2000 standard and quality management system implementation; Has knowledge in all aspects of dimensional inspection; Technically knowledgeable of mold and die mftg.; Adept in computer software operations; Will be assigned in Quezon City.

MACHINE DESIGNERS
- 24 to 35 years old; Male; BS Mechanical Engineering graduate or any related course; Computer literate and has knowledge on AutoCAD, 3D, and machine designing; Preferably coming from a mould and die manufacturing company; Will be assigned in Quezon City.

Interested applicants may report with their credentials to the:

CORP. RECRUITMENT SECTION
RAMCAR BATTERY GROUP
2/F, Ramcar Old Building
Marathon cor. Sct. Tobias Sts., Quezon City

AHEAD TUTORIAL AND REVIEW
invites applicants to fill the following positions:

PART/FULL-TIME LECTURERS
- Honor graduates or teachers of UP, Ateneo, La Salle or board topnotchers: law or medicine students
- Saturday or Sunday work only

PART/FULL-TIME TUTORS
- Graduates/students of UP, Ateneo, La Salle or Philippine Science
- For Science, Math and Language subject--also foreign languages, accounting and computer subjects

RESEARCHERS
SUBJECT AREA SPECIALISTS
- Who can be tasked to write manuals, education materials.
- With background in test construction

PREP TEACHERS
- Graduate of reputable schools
- Work experience
- Below 29 years old

ASSISTANT MANAGER
MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- 6 months supervisory or marketing experience
- Good planning, leadership and management skills

MARKETING MANAGER
MARKETING STAFF
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Resourceful, personable and aggressive

PART TIME WRITERS/ EDITORS
- Preferably a writer in a known publication

HR MANAGER
HR ASSISTANT
- Graduate of Psychology/Human Resource Mgt.
- With experience
- Good in both written and oral communication

SECRETARIES
OFFICE STAFF
ACCOUNTING CLERK
- College Graduate
- At least 6 months experience
- Pleasing personality

MIS
- Graduate of management information system (MIS) or with MIS experience

Send your comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and two 2x2 pictures to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
149 B. GONZALES STREET, LOYOLA HEIGHTS, Q.C.
2/F PROVIDENCE BUILDING, 55 ANNAPOLIS STREET, GREENHILLS, CITY OF SAN JUAN

A Multinational Company is in need of:

One (1) Telecoms Product Specialist
Male/Female
- Preferably graduate of BS ECE (but not required)
- Experience in Sales/Marketing of Data equipment for 3 years
- Must be familiar with major Telecoms carriers
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- With driver's license is an advantage

One (1) Telecoms Engineer
- Graduate of BS ECE/BS Computer Engineering (newly graduates)
- Experience in Data/PABX programming installation and commissioning is an advantage, but not necessary
- Between 21-25 years old

One (1) Marketing Assistant
Male/Female
- Agriculture or Business/Commerce Graduate with experience in Sales and Marketing

One (1) Marketing Assistant
- Experience in Sale[illegible]rketing and Logistics is an advantage
- With driver's licen[illegible]an advantage
- Not more than 40 yea[illegible]s old
- Must be fluent in English
- Product to handle: Food/Chemical Ingredients and other raw materials Construction Materials

One (1) Secretary
- Computer literate, fluent in English
- With Good communication skills and pleasing personality

We offer above-industry standard compensation packages.
Send by mail your resumé with picture or apply personally at:

Kital Philippines Corp.
Unit 607, Taipan Place
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City
E-mail: kital@kital.com.ph

SUMISETSU PHILIPPINES, INC.
7480 Bagtikan corner Dao Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City

SR. DESIGN & ESTIMATE ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL

- Male, 28-35 years old, licensed Electrical Engineer.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in the design and estimate of electrical installation of Industrial and Commercial establishments.
- Knowledge in preparation of technical specifications and design drawings.
- Must be familiar with Philippine Code, National Building Code, Fire Code and other relevant International codes.

ATTRACTIVE SALARY AWAITS THE BEST APPLICANT

Submit complete resumé, Mondays and Tuesdays.
Only eligible candidates will be scheduled for interview.
Previous applicants need not apply.

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At ***ONSTAGE*** - Green Belt, Makati

Bring your resumé with ID picture and submit it to:

ONSTAGE JOB FAIR
Pigeon hole code: KLW-010-01 TI

or you may mail your application to:

Box # KA-010-TI
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.
636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita Manila

MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO and the first HMO to be awarded ISO 9002 is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

NURSES

Male or female. At least 5'7" for males and 5'3" for females. Must be a registered nurse;
With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting;
With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
Willing to be assigned in Libis, Cainta, Makati, Pasig.

REGISTERED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Female, between 22 to 29 years of age;
With at least 6 months related experience;
Must be computer literate.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Male. At least 5'6" in height. Single;
Graduate of BS Marketing or any Medical course;
With above average written and oral communication skills;
Must be computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

Medicard Phils., Inc.
Human Resources Department
8/F Sagittarius Building, H.V. Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
or email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com
(Previous applicants need not apply.)

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- ☑ College graduate
- ☑ 24-30 years old
- ☑ Honest and hardworking
- ☑ Proficient in oral and written communication
- ☑ Willing to undergo training
- ☑ Preferably with selling experience
- ☑ To call on hospitals and clinics in Metro Manila and nearby provinces

Bring letter of application, biodata, transcript of records and I.D. pictures to:

Goldstar Medical Systems Inc.
U304 Metropolitan Terraces Condominium Building
Metropolitan Avenue corner Sacred Heart Street
Makati City 1203

MERCELLES JEWELRY

We are a leading jewelry retail sales company based in Makati and we are in need of:

ACCOUNTING STAFF
SALES STAFF
JEWELRY DESIGNER

The candidates must be:

- Female, single
- 21-25 years old, with related experience
- College graduate of Business Management, Business Admin., Accounting, Marketing, Fine Arts

Please bring your resumé, transcript of records and I.D. photo to:

MERCELLES JEWELRY
2/F, Glorietta I, Ayala Center, Makati City

MG PRIME PHARMACEUTICAL INC. AND MEDGEN LABORATORY

Our dynamic companies are engage in manufacturing and distribution of high quality branded and generic medicines. These products are being carried at the chain of drugstores of Mercury Drug and I-Mart Convenience Store and Pharmacy. Our laboratory is currently accredited by the Department of Health.

We are in need of:

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We offer:
- Exclusive Territory
- Quality medicines at competitive prices
- Marketing Support
- Manpower Training/orientation
- Liberal credit terms

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES/PROMO ASSISTANTS

(FOR BRANDED PRODUCTS)
METRO MANILA AREA
- Ambitious and Hardworking
- With pleasing personality
- Male/Female not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With related working experience

We provide competitive salaries; commission and car plan to qualified applicants. Please write or call:

#72 Richmack Bldg., Mindanao Ave., Project 6, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-6958 to 59 / Fax No. 454-6853
E-mail: mgprime@i-next.net

Mini JOB FAIR

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The **INQUIRER'S JOB MARKET** continues to meet the needs of our advertisers in picking the right professionals among the bunch.

JOB MARKET invites all students and professionals to be part of the **Mini Job Fair** on **October 22 to 24, 2001;** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Onstage-Greenbelt, Makati City.

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AYALA CENTER

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MINI JOB FAIR RECRUITMENT FORM

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

CAREER PREFERENCE:
1. 3.
2. 4.

LAST NAME:	FIRST NAME:	M.I.	SEX	CIVIL STATUS

DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY)	AGE:	NATIONALITY:	E-MAIL ADDRESS:

HOME ADDRESS	TEL #
PROVINCIAL ADDRESS	TEL #
OFFICE ADDRESS	TEL #

TOTAL # OF YEARS OF FULL TIME WORK:

WORK EXPERIENCE

COMPANY	POSITION	PERIOD

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

SCHOOL	DEGREE	PERIOD

SPECIAL SKILLS

COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE:
LANGUAGES SPOKEN:
OTHER SKILLS:
SEMINARS/TRAINING ATTENDED:

Please fill up this form and send to:
Mini Job Fair Databank
JOB MARKET
PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue
corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City

Visit us at Onstage-Greenbelt on October 22 to 24, 2001 for our Mini Job Fair.

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

EL NIDO

TEN KNOTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A world class tourist destination located in Palawan need applicants for immediate employment:

JAPANESE ACCOUNT MANAGER (1)

25-30 years old, female, 1-2 years work experience as account manager or any related field, pleasant, Japanese speaking (required)

Send resumé with picture to **Ten Knots Development Corporation**, HR Department, 2/F Builders Centre Building, 170 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Through e-mail hra@elnidoresorts.com or fax through 894-1134.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES
AIRCON SERVICE TECHNICIAN

- ☑ college graduate (Sale)
- ☑ graduate of Airconditioning Technical course (Service)
- ☑ with experience
- ☑ with driver's license
- ☑ below 30 years old
- ☑ with pleasing personality

Deadline: **October 25, 2001**

Apply at: **HITACHI**
Airconditioning Sales (Phils.) Inc.
GF Parc House Building
227 Edsa, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 727-2771; 744-5966 to 67

BODY & SOUL
&
Nature's Gift from Australia
IS IN NEED OF

A) ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
- female, minimum 3 years work experience in a similar position
- Computer literate / self-motivating

B) COMPANY PHARMACIST
- Female, computer literate
- Licensed, with minimum 3 years work experience in a similar position
- Full-time work

C) RETAIL SALES SUPERVISORS
- Female, previous experience in a similar field would be an advantage
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MAGAZINE

October 21, 2001
Volume 14 No. 33

Personal Best

Gretchen Malalad and the Medalists of the 21st SEA Games

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REMEMBERING CHRIS

I would like to thank you for the wonderful article on my Uncle Chris Monfort (**SIM**, 19 August 2001). I was very happy to hear so many good things I had not known about him. I will always remember him because we share the same birthday and a love for sports. Although I did not know my uncle very well because I live in America, I have many fond memories and a strong love for him.

ASHLEY MONFORT
mahalkita408@hotmail.com

BRAVO, JESSICA

Congratulations to Jessica Soho for her award (**SIM**, 7 October 2001). I'd like to find out if she is the daughter of, or if she is related to Abelardo Soho or Eddie Soho of San Fernando, La Union. These gentlemen were my boyhood friends and classmates at the La Union High school. I have lost touch with them after being exiled here in Canada. If Jessica is related to them, I know that they are very proud of her, just as I am. I hope you can pass this note on to her.

ALBERT B. CASUGA
albert.casuga@dpcdsb.org

Thanks for having my fave broadcaster, Jessica Soho, on your cover. Kindly feature the other nine TOWNS awardees. Again thank you and more power.

FELECITAS BASCOR
Caloocan City
fhely@lycos.com

GREAT ARTICLES

I am not in the habit of writing letters to newspaper and magazine editors but given the quality of the articles that came out in **SIM**'s October 7, 2001 issue, I felt that an exception had to be made to this unwritten rule of mine. Words like "memorable, honest, tender and moving" came to mind as I was reading "Volunteer Kuya" and "Tough." These articles prove that one does not need to resort to bombastic language or sensational imagery to make an impact on a publication's readership. Often, just a simple, straightforward account of the joys and pain experienced by seemingly ordinary people is enough to leave a lasting impression on even the most cynical of persons. Bravo to Cathy Babao-Guballa and Loris Villarente Acosta for proving that heroism and nobility of spirit are still very much alive in our midst!

JOSIE SERAFICA
#12 Monroe Drive
Don Antonio Royale Estates
Old Balara, Quezon City

ANOTHER PINOY ARTIST IN THE US

Hi, my name is Neneng. While surfing the web I came across your story on Francisco V. Coching (**SIM**, 7 October 2001). He is one of my favorite comic artists in the Philippines back in the 1960s. Other popular artists I am familiar with are Alfredo Alcala, Alex Niño, and Nestor Redondo. But one very popular artist in America, but rarely mentioned in the Philippines, is Floro Dery. He was the designer of the globally popular "Transformers: The Movie," and the toys associated with it. He was also the syndicated Filipino artist who did the Sunday SpiderMan illustrations from 1982-1992, with Stan Lee. In addition, he also designed many other cartoons in America. To know more about him, go to http://hometown.aol.com/kuest144/index.html

VIA EMAIL
SilverPhoenix12@aol.com

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The Cover Image Karate queen Gretchen Malalad is among the new generation of Filipino sporting heroes who took center stage at the recent 21st SEA Games *Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento*

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By Lorenzo Z. Mangulat

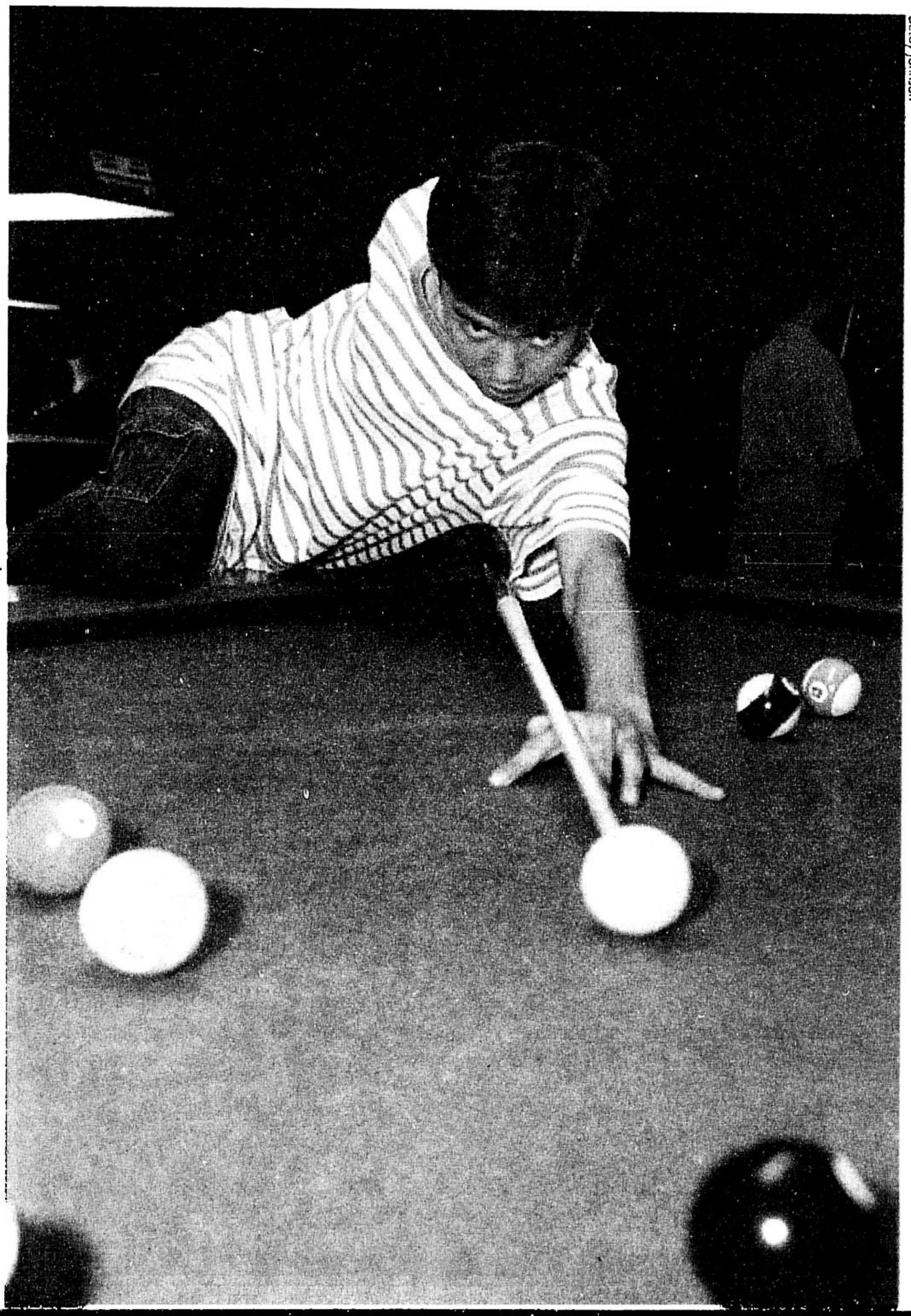
A 22-year-old unknown like Van Corteza shocked the billiards world by beating the Magician in Kuala Lumpur

The Big Break

IN SPORTS, THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT BIG THING IS INEVITABLE. AS SOON AS THE PUBLIC HAILS SOMEONE AS A SPORTING ICON, THE SEARCH FOR HIS PREDECESSOR ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS. THE TASK CAN TURN OUT TO BE A FUTILE ATTEMPT IF SOMEONE ANOINTED TO SUCCEED THOSE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED GREATNESS, FAIL MISERABLY. EVERY NOW AND THEN HOWEVER, AN UNLIKELY CONTENDER SPRINGS OUT OF NOWHERE TO FULFILL HIS DESTINY.

Ernie U. Sarmiento

Mulling a move during the SEA Games



Beroy Johnson

Eye on the ball: Lee Van's ready to play anytime, anywhere

For Filipinos, the name Efren "Bata" Reyes has become synonymous with the sport of billiards just as Ali is to boxing and Jordan is to basketball. Reyes' wizardry at the billiards table is the stuff of legends, but people predict that time would eventually catch up with the toothless magician from Pampanga.

Enter Lee Van Corteza.

Facing the highly fancied Reyes for the gold medal in the eight ball category in last month's Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the 22-year-old Lee Van executed one of the games' biggest upsets as he walked away with a 5-4 victory.

Some critics called Lee Van's win a fluke and speculated that Reyes gave the match away with the score knotted up at 4-all. Corteza was nevertheless quick to defend his triumph.

"The ball was in a very difficult position," Corteza said in reference to Reyes' miscue which cost the latter the gold. "Besides, I led 2-0 in that game so he was the one who played catch-up," he added in Pilipino.

To page 5

by Jasmine W. Payo

Coach Boysie Zamar rose above politics to help Filipino players retain basketball supremacy in the region

Sideline Superior

HE FACED A STIFF BATTLE ON AND OFF THE HARDCOURT. MONTHS BEFORE THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES, BASKETBALL HEAD COACH DAVID "BOYSIE" ZAMAR WAS CALLING THE SHOTS DURING THE SCRIMMAGES AND AT THE SAME TIME, MUSCLING HIS WAY THROUGH LOCAL SPORTS POLITICS.

There was a leadership crisis in the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), and one of the issues that remained uncertain was his team's stint at the regional sports event.

"There were problems, intrigues, and bickering among the BAP officials," he recalls. "Then there were rumors that another team was playing. We wanted to get the supplies a month before we leave but people told us they were on hold since it's not certain that we're leaving for Kuala Lumpur," he relates.

There were other ego-wounding moments that could have prompted Zamar to give up his post. Yet the 34-year-old tactician maintained his focus on the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA) selection he handpicked and chose instead to exert his energy in developing team chemistry. "We kept on practising. I was telling my team that whatever happens, at least we tried," he says.

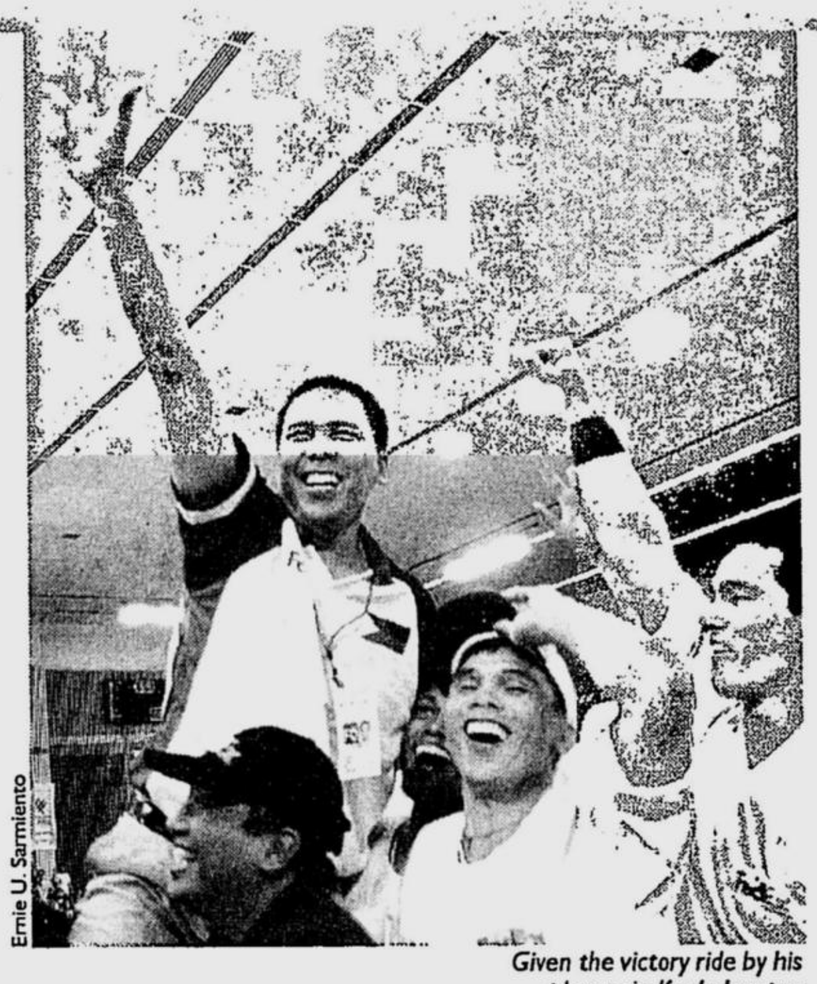
Such steadfast leadership has always been in Zamar's character. The RP team's main man Romel Adducul attests to this. Zamar was his mentor during his Manila Metrostars days in the MBA and in several national team delegations. "He stands firm, especially when he knows he's on the right track. He tells us that it doesn't matter what happens as long as we did the right thing," says the 6'6" skipper.

Yet Zamar believes that it was his players who displayed remarkable dedication. For ten months, the MBA standouts agreed to practise despite knowing the odds of not donning the RP colors. The MBA coach also expressed thanks to the private individuals who helped them get by. "There were a lot of struggles. Even our benefactors like private business owner Elvira Go didn't get anything in return."

On court, the expectation is similarly stressful. As coach of the defending champions in the Southeast Asian basketball games, Zamar knew that he has to keep the winning tradition. "Many were saying that it doesn't matter if we lose in other events as long as we win in basketball."

The RP squad was expected to replicate their lopsided victories in the past SEA Games. In fact, other countries have conceded that they'll only be battling for the second spot. "Everywhere we go in Southeast Asia, we are respected. They even record our practices," Zamar says proudly.

The veteran national team member was indeed confident of his wards' talents. The task of representing the nation and motivating the country's best talents is nothing new to Zamar. He has been part of the Philippine contingent 16 times and has held various positions at the sidelines, from utility crew member to assistant coach to head strategist. But this time, he admits that he had worries of falling short of



Ernie U. Sarmiento

Given the victory ride by his players in Kuala Lumpur

expectations. "There would be more criticisms if we failed to bring home the gold. I actually thought that I wouldn't go back to coaching if that happened," he reveals.

But apparently, despite local intrigues and the odds, the Philippine crew still proved too much for their Southeast Asian counterparts as they steamrolled their opponents with an average of 30 points enroute to another first place finish. Zamar felt that back home, their win made many Filipinos proud. Yet he's also aware that he can't impress everyone with their dominating run. "If we lead by 10 points, there are those who would say that the coach is no good," he says. "But if we win by 40, they would just say that we had weak opponents. It's a no-win situation for us."

Nevertheless, what mattered to him was that they made a lot of Filipino fans in Malaysia happy. "The *masa*, the domestic helpers, they were the ones who really appreciated us. We gave them joy. They're happy just having their picture taken with us. My players were touched because back home, we didn't receive the same treatment," he shares.

Zamar was overwhelmed with the number of Filipinos who came to watch them. He recounts that five hours before their championship game, there were already Filipinos waiting outside the venue. "A lot of Filipinos were denied entry because they can't speak Malay. Three begged me to help them get in so they could see our country play. They aren't treated well so they wanted to get even at least in basketball. So I helped them in," he narrates.

Such actions aren't surprising as Zamar has always been kind-hearted. "He is a very good person. *Totoong tao siya* (He has no pretensions)," discloses Adducul. "On court, he keeps his cool and doesn't swear at the players. Even if you're having a bad game, he still trusts you and encourages you," Adducul adds.

After the championship round at the SEA Games, Zamar ended another coaching stint with an avalanche of thank you's. No medals are handed to coaches although they deserve a lot of commendation. But Zamar maintains that a coach's job is to let his players shine. "Once a coach, you have to start thinking that you're always in the background. You're always a second class citizen," he says. He also stresses that every assignment is a challenge to prove oneself. As Zamar puts it, "There are only two coaches in this world: one who has been fired and the one who's going to be fired. It's always a question mark."

Keeper of the flame: Zamar with the fruits of his labor

Jess Yuson

True enough, the young Corteza has come a long way from being a wide-eyed teenager from Davao City to become one of the country's finest billiards prospects. The eldest in a brood of five boys in a middle-class household, Lee Van never thought he'd get seriously involved with the game. Playing with his friends on the local billiard halls, Lee Van, then 13, soon realized he was a quick learner. What started as an after-school pastime became a driving passion.

Captivated by the skill of visiting players from Manila in the National Nine-Ball tournament, Lee Van sought to be just like them even if it meant devoting all his time to practising and eventually dropping out from high school. Unlike many of his predecessors, Lee Van didn't need to cling to the game to escape poverty since his parents could afford to send him to school and provide food on the table. Yet, the lure of billiards was simply too strong for Lee Van. He would spend an average of four to five hours a day on the billiards table and by the time he began winning at 15, would increase his practice time to as much as eight hours every day.

Witnessing Lee Van's limitless potential, Benjamin "Anig" Carusos, then president of the Davao Billiards Association, offered the boy a trip to Manila where he could showcase his talents more. At 16, Lee Van left his family and moved to Manila in October 1995.

A relative unknown in Manila, Lee Van started off playing the role of "*manghaharang*" or spoiler to the more established players. He began competing in provincial tournaments before being elevated to invitationals and national tournaments where his ranking steadily rose. In 1997, he decided to turn professional.

By 1998, Lee Van was named to the National Pool and had the honor of representing the country in the Bangkok Asian Games, which would turn out to be his first international stint. He gave a good account of himself in Bangkok as he reached the quarterfinals.

Bringing home with him newfound confidence, Lee Van improved his game tremendously and began receiving more invitations to compete abroad. Last year, he bagged the prestigious Pan Chao Nine-Ball Open in Taiwan, bringing home US$4,000 in prize money.

Although he was able to earn a decent living playing billiards, Lee Van admits that life as a pro isn't a bed of roses and he doesn't recommend it. "There isn't a stable income in billiards and winning involves a lot of luck," he explains. "I even told my own brothers not to follow in my footsteps and to focus on their studies."

While his stock was rising, Lee Van also found time to get married and become a father with the birth of his daughter Angel Van. Despite being a family man at a relatively young age, he has managed to balance his private life with his chosen career well. Though the game of billiards may be associated with late nights and all sorts of vices, Lee Van says that he's fully devoted to his family and the sport. When he's not practising his game, he just spends most of his free time at home.

For a gold medalist, Lee Van remains humble and grounded. He feels that every win is a gift from God and that he has a lot to improve on. At present, he is busy training for the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, Korea.

Lee Van Corteza may not be about to displace Bata Reyes as the country's billiards king, but the future of the sport is very much in good hands

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Cover Story
by Ruel S. De Vera
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

With her hard-earned gold in Kuala Lumpur, pretty karateka Gretchen Malalad is getting all the attention she deserves

Winning Form

WHEN GRETCHEN MALALAD WAS 16, HER BROTHERS TYRONE AND JEAN MARC ENROLLED IN A KARATE CLASS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1995. SHE SAW THEM IN THE HOUSE AFTER CLASS, KICKING AND PUNCHING INTO THE AIR. "*NAIINGGIT AKO* (I ENVIED THEM)" GRETCHEN LAUGHS, "SO I JOINED AFTER TWO MONTHS." THOUGH SHE FOUND IT DIFFICULT AT THE BEGINNING, GRETCHEN SOON DISCOVERED SHE WAS A NATURAL AT THE MARTIAL ART. "I WAS VERY AWKWARD AT FIRST BUT I LOVED THE KICKS." HER BROTHERS DROPPED OUT OF THE SPORT AFTER A WHILE DUE TO INJURIES, BUT GRETCHEN STAYED ON—TO VERY IMPRESSIVE RESULTS.

No result is more impressive that the gold medal she won, at age 21, during the recent 21st Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as part of the Philippine karatedo team. Beyond that, the girl with killer looks and killer kicks, represents a new generation of athletic heroes. By herself, the statuesque Gretchen, 5'7 1/2" and 59 kilos, bears a pretty interesting story about how someone who describes herself as "a simple girl" had to give up a steady job to literally go for the gold.

BORN January 10, 1980 in Pasig, Gretchen was a big baby, weighing in at 9.5 lbs. at birth. The second in a brood of three to businessman Peter Malalad and wife Maricel, Gretchen, or Ge² for short, grew up playing with boys but was never the tomboyish type. "She was very athletic," her mother recalls, "but was also a very quiet child."

Shortly after she took up karate, Gretchen began joining tournaments. "I like competitions," she explains, "and I like winning." Winning was something she became accustomed to as she began topping tournaments including the Nationals in 1996. In 1999, Gretchen was named to the Philippine team at the age of 19 after only four years in the sport. "It was a big deal for me. It's different when you're representing your country," Gretchen beams, "and not every athlete is given the chance to compete under the national colors."

Gretchen got her first taste of international competition during the 1999 SEA Games in Brunei where she was part of the *kumite* team event. After winning against Singapore, the Filipinos lost to Vietnam. She was crushed. "I was disappointed because I didn't do as well as I could," she somberly recalls, "and I worked so hard for it." That loss ignited a newfound purpose for Gretchen: she promised herself that things would be different next time.

The next time came a month after during an international meet in Singapore—"sort of like the Asian Games for karate," Gretchen says—where she bagged two bronze medals in the open weight and below 60 kilogram-division as the only Filipino *kumite* competitor. But she still wanted one particular piece of hardware for her collection: A gold medal from the SEA Games.

In the meantime, Gretchen continued working towards her AB Communication Arts degree at the University of Santo Tomas, constantly balancing her studies and a rigorous practice schedule. "I would go to school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and then train from 5 p.m. upwards," Gretchen explains. Last year, she graduated from UST and started writing and editing sports for Pinoycentral.com. Yet ten months later, she gave it up—for the sake of karatedo.

This martial artist just loves Harry Potter

Cover Story
by Ruel S. De Vera
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

With her hard-earned gold in Kuala Lumpur, pretty karateka Gretchen Malalad is getting all the attention she deserves

Winning Form

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Human buzzsaw in Kuala Lumpur

"I QUIT because I wanted to train for the SEA Games full-time," Gretchen explains. "I was having a hard time training because I was too tired after work." It wasn't an easy decision. "I didn't want a life that was all karate but I also loved my job," Gretchen says, "But I really wanted to win," she adds. Thus she began living the life of a full-time athlete, training daily for the 2001 SEAGs in Malaysia since July and living on a national class B athlete's allowance of P8000 monthly. Her parents were supportive, however, and Gretchen was determined as well to achieve her dream gold at the SEA Games. In truth, Kuala Lumpur would become the coming out party for the red-hot karatedo star.

At the SEA Games, Gretchen's unique skills as a fighter became evident to an international audience. She was an aggressive combatant, constantly moving, and, as Gretchen herself notes, "I never let my defense down." What was also impressive were her kicks. Using her height to full advantage, Gretchen turned herself into a human buzzsaw during the SEAG, uncorking vicious roundhouse kicks to pummel her opponents. "I really worked at it, because I learned to kick first before I learned to punch, so I got used to it. Plus kicks earn more points, so I made them my specialty."

Additionally, the Filipino karatekas made a splash because they all agreed to either bleach their hair or have it done up in braids—"just so we would stand out," Gretchen laughs. But even if she didn't braid her hair or have a big X painted on her cheek, she became a standout both for her looks and for her devastating performance.

WHEN a *kumite* begins, two opponents stand across each other before unleashing punches, chops and kicks. It is a confrontation of split-second offense and even faster defense. When Gretchen arrived in Kuala Lumpur, she was all business. After drawing a first round bye in the +60 weight class, Gretchen realized she would have to go up against the defending champion from Vietnam for her first match. But she had come too far to be denied now and she breezed past the Vietnamese karateka, setting up that gold medal match she had looked forward to since 1999.

"I wasn't nervous at all," she says, "I just wanted to fight." And fight she did, dominating her opponent from Indonesia from the get-go. She stalked her enemy all over the fighting area. "I wasn't in a hurry, I just wanted to make sure that I was always ahead." In the end, she left no doubt that she deserved the gold. In a blink of an eye, the match was done—and Gretchen had her gold medal. Jumping up and down, Gretchen savored the moment with her teammates. "That

To page 15

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40-43	151.90	1,720.00	303.80	3,440.00	607.60	6,880.00	911.40	10,320.00	1,215.20	13,760.00	1,519.00	17,200.00	3,038.00	34,400.00
44-47	193.90	2,196.00	387.80	4,392.00	775.60	8,784.00	1,163.40	13,176.00	1,551.20	17,568.00	1,939.00	21,960.00	3,878.00	43,920.00
48-50	231.90	2,624.00	463.80	5,248.00	927.60	10,496.00	1,391.40	15,744.00	1,855.20	20,992.00	2,319.00	26,240.00	4,638.00	52,480.00
51-53	277.90	3,144.00	555.80	6,288.00	1,111.60	12,576.00	1,667.40	18,864.00	2,223.20	25,152.00	2,779.00	31,440.00	5,558.00	62,880.00
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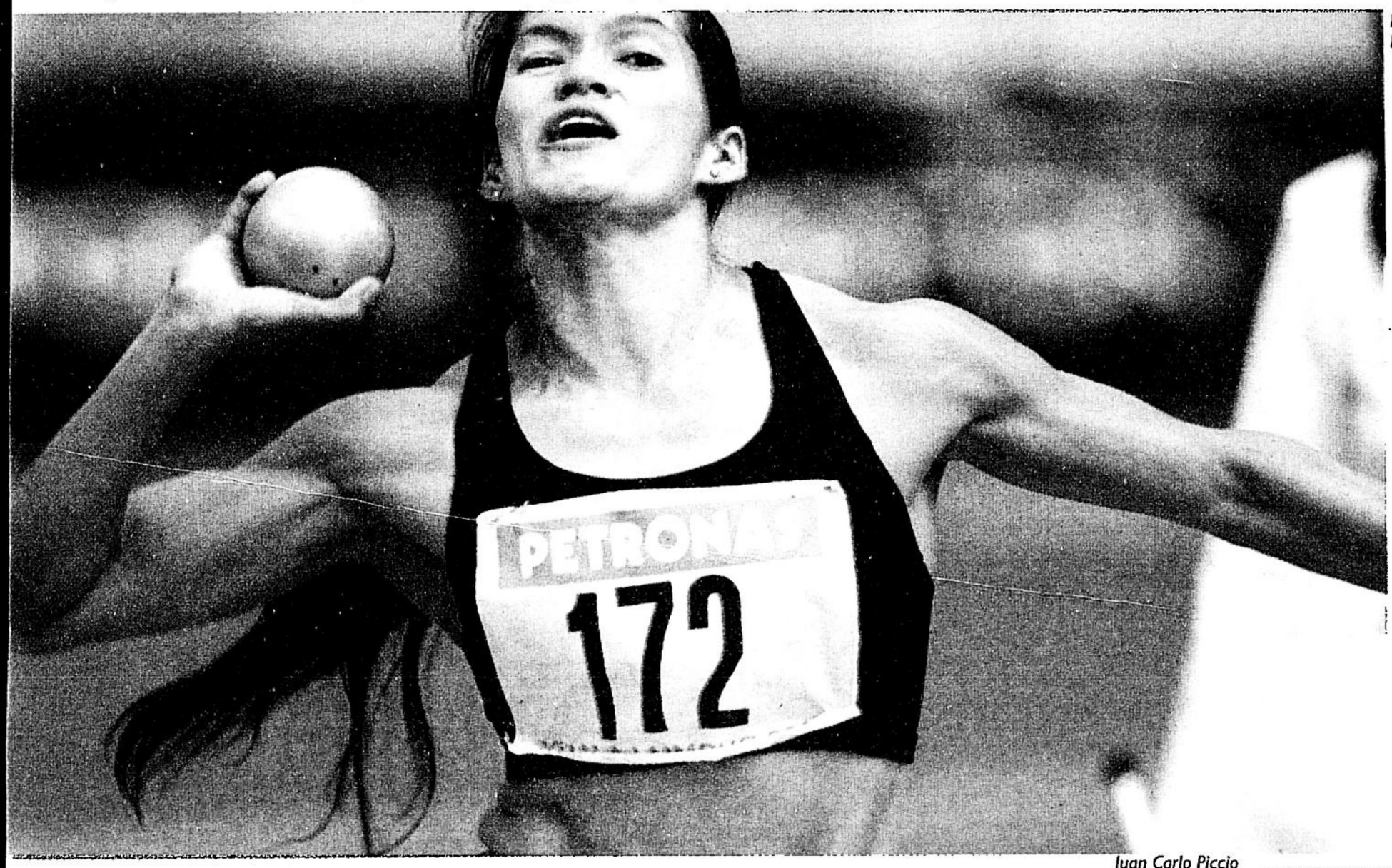
Photo Essay
photographs by Ernie B. Sarmiento

Behold the powerful yet graceful form of our athletes at the SEA Games, as seen through the discerning lens of prize-winning photojournalist Ernie Sarmiento

Peak Performers

Athletic competitions bring out the best in the performers and in those who cover the events. The recent SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur allowed INQUIRER chief photographer Ernie Sarmiento an opportunity to capture our best athletes in their highest level of performance. Sarmiento, 42, had been taking photographs since high school and has frozen historic events on photo paper, from the first Edsa Revolution to the Olympics. "It felt great to watch our athletes. Seeing them in action, I stopped being a photographer. I became a fan."



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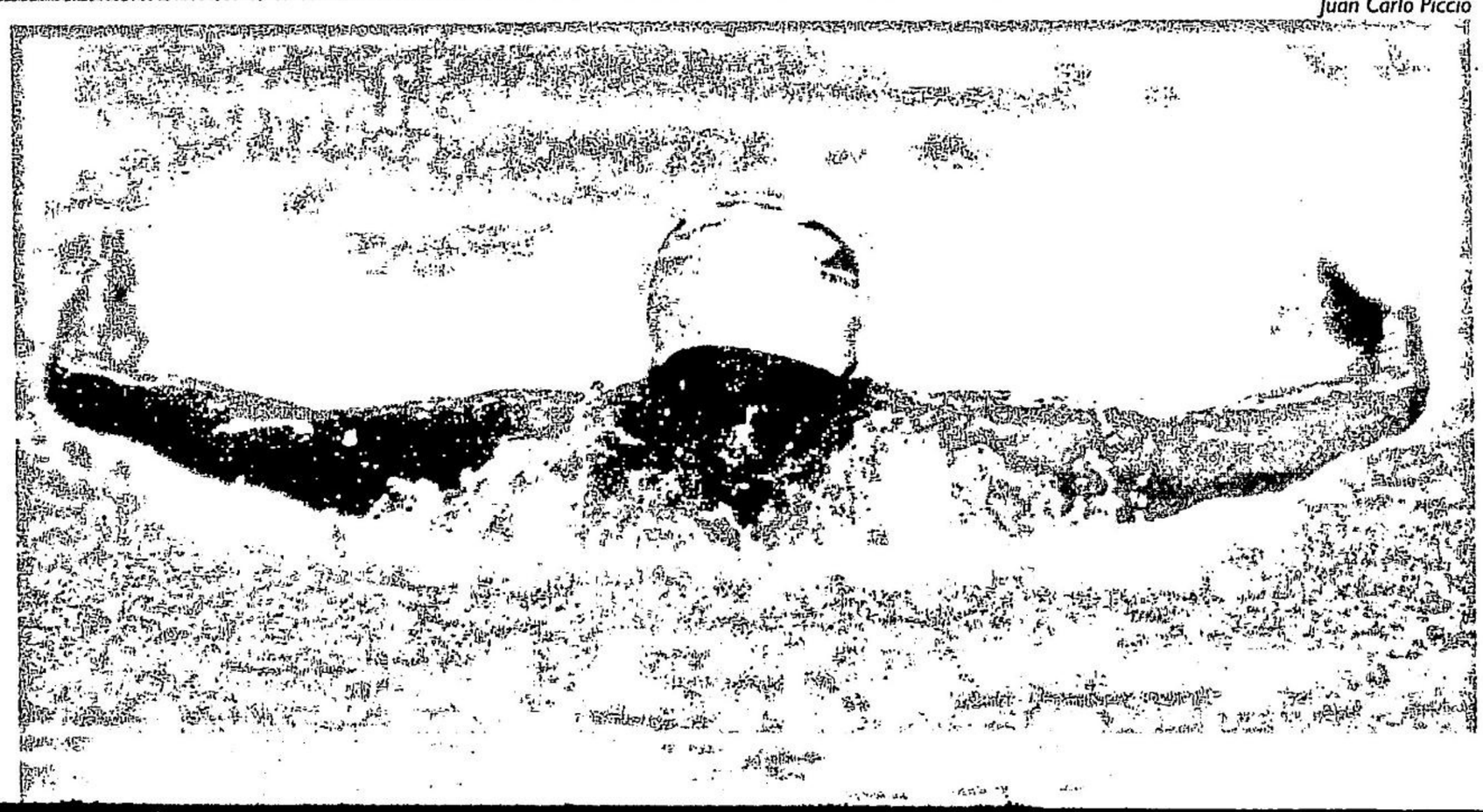

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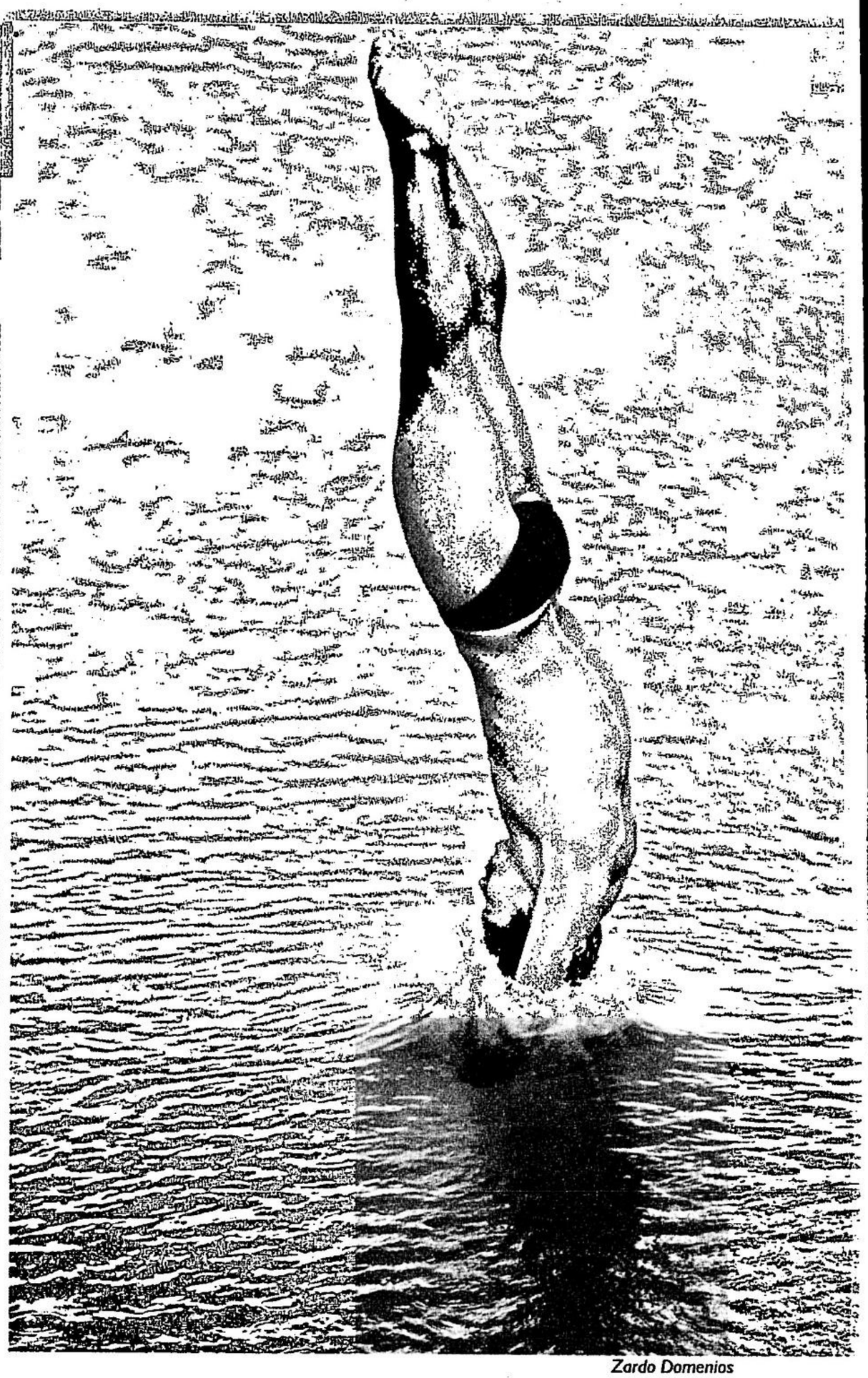

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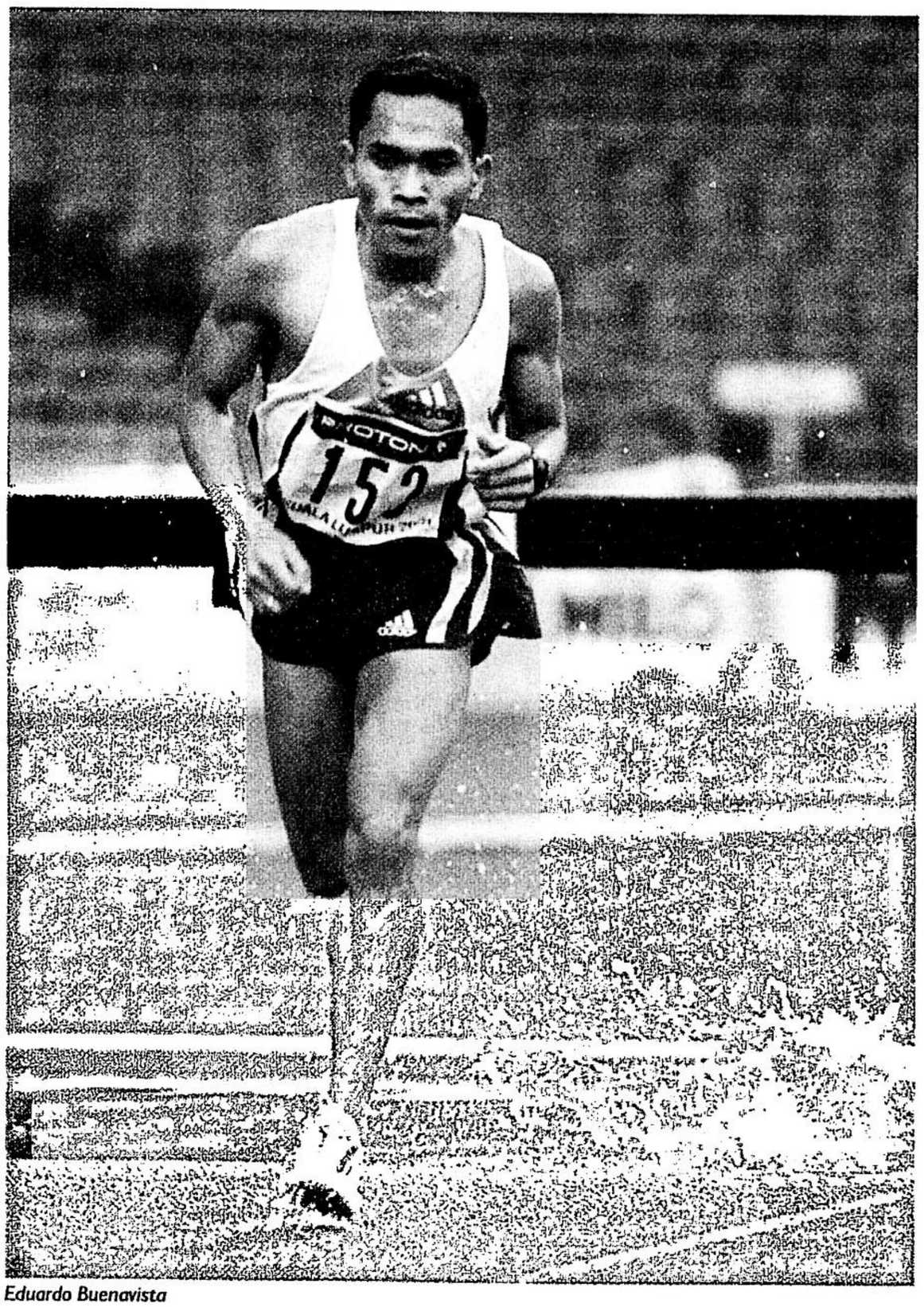

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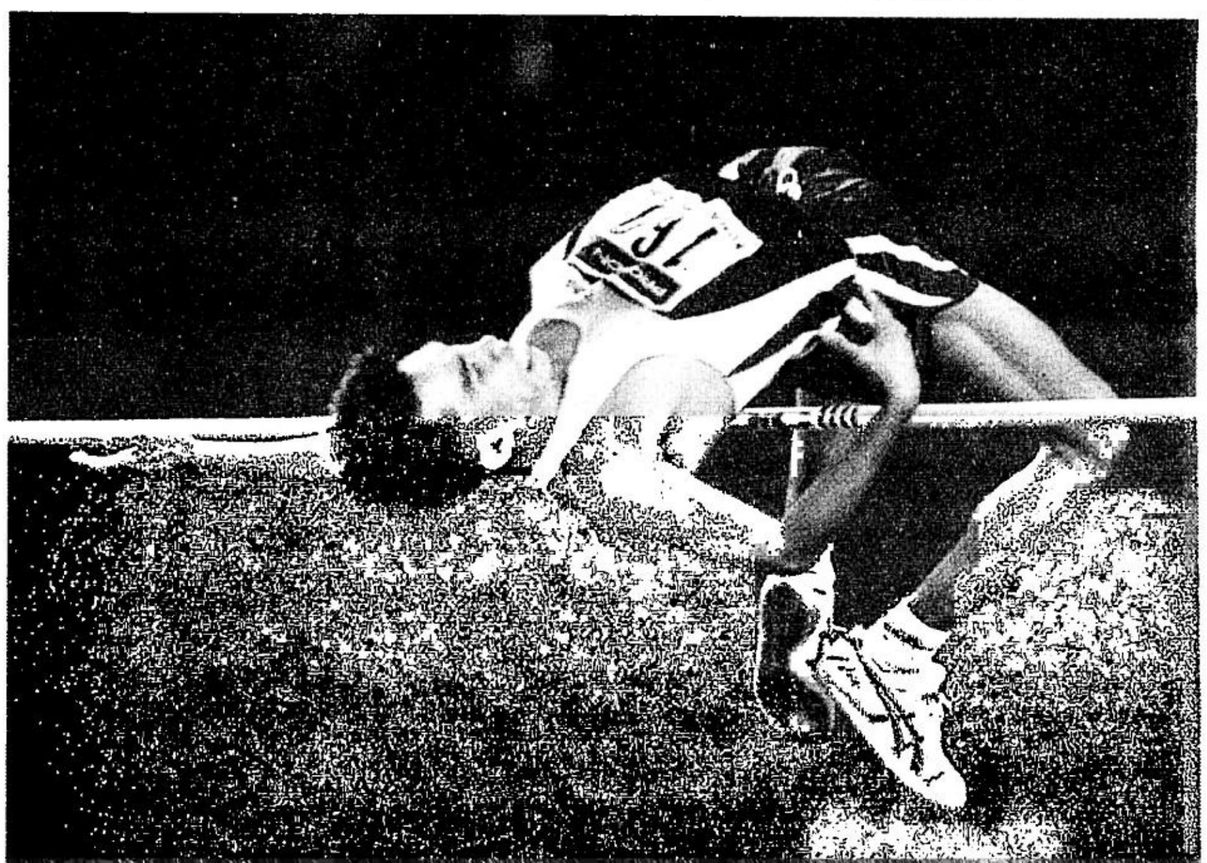


Sean Guevara

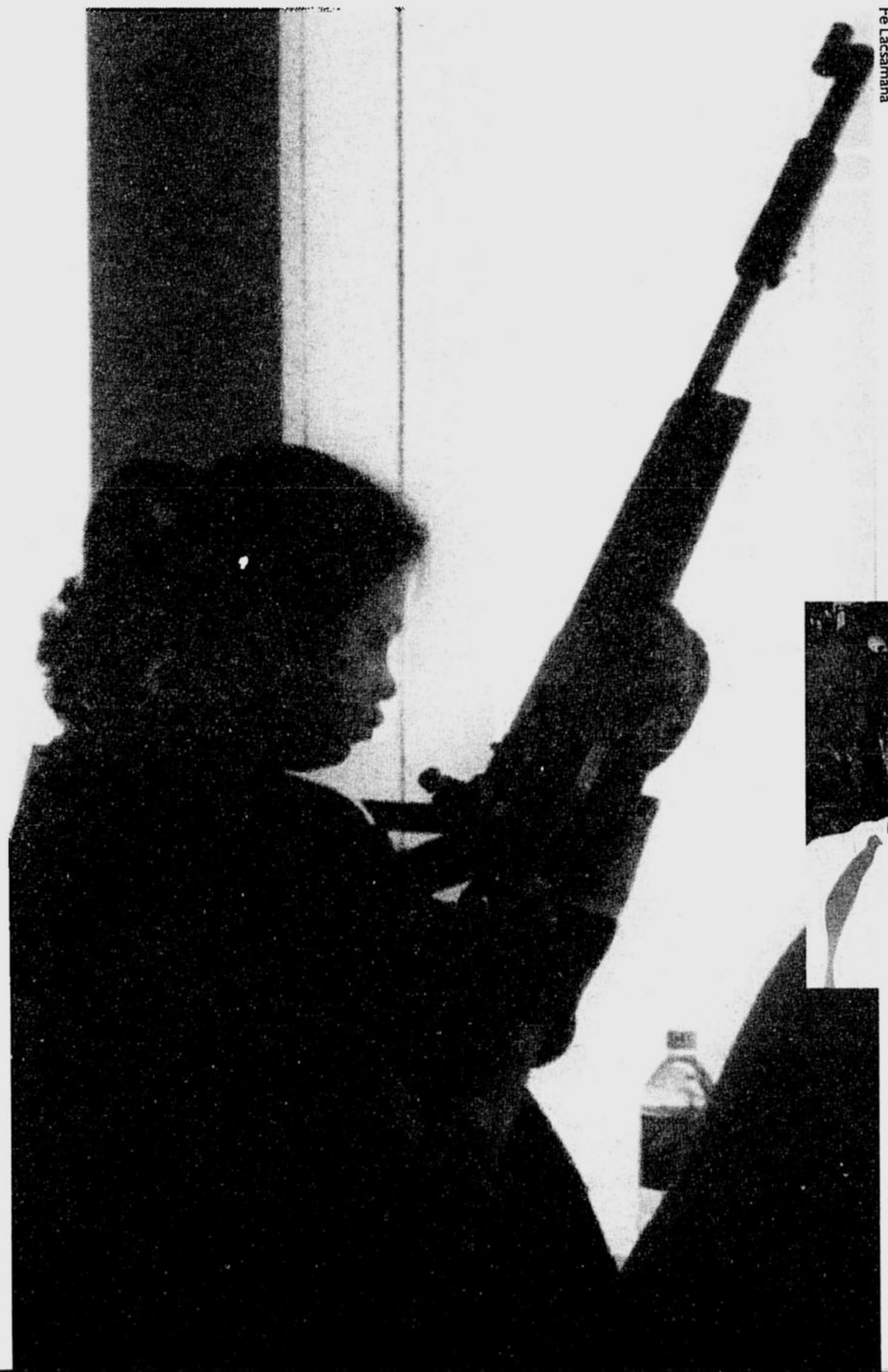
by Fe Lacsamana

All her life, Rasheya Jasmin Luis has been shooting for a gold at the SEA Games. When it came, the champion rifle shooter found that her rigorous training didn't quite prepare her for the emotional high of the moment

Sure Shot

LONG BEFORE RASHEYA JASMIN LUIS STRUCK GOLD IN THE RECENT KUALA LUMPUR SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES, SHE HAD ALREADY PLANNED WHAT SHE WOULD DO. THE NATIONAL SHOOTER HAD RUN THOSE PRECIOUS MOMENTS IN HER HEAD SEVERAL TIMES. WITH FLAIR, SHE WOULD PEEL THE CAP OFF HER SWEATY HEAD, RUN TO HER TEAMMATES AND EMOTE. SHE WOULD THEN PHONE HOME AND BASK IN GLORY WITH HER MOTHER TERESITA AND SISTERS, CATLEYA, AN EX-NATIONAL *KARATISTA*, AND EDHELWEISS, A PASTRY CHEF.

In Kuala Lumpur though, when the long awaited moment finally came, the irrepressible Rasheya was emotionless and numb all over. Joey Mundo, a Philippine National Shooting Association official, plunked his cellphone in her hand and told the stunned winner, "Tell your Mom you made the gold." But Rash could only stand there with a lump in her throat, her eyes misting, and had to ask her friend to relay the news to her mother..



Fe Lacsamana

Rash or Jasmin, a specialist in the three-position sport rifle shooting, has scored relatively well in the Asian Games, World Championships, World Cup and the Olympics although her performances didn't merit a medal. Golds she has won in the SEA Shooting championships: in the air rifle division in 1994 and prone position in 1998, plus a silver in the air rifle and a bronze in the 3 position/20 shots. But a gold in the SEAG has eluded her since 1993 when she first participated.

Ready to shoot in KL (left); savoring that golden feeling (above)

"I wasn't really thinking too much of the results even while I was still in Manila. I had a lot of technical problems a month before the SEA Games," says this legal management graduate. There was indeed pressure on the 28-year-old Pasig City native, especially since she still had to familiarize herself and train for less than a month using a new gun issued by Camp Crame. "I concentrated on performance goals," Jasmin reveals. "Stress would only make me a nervous wreck. *Mapupunta tayo sa kangkungan noon.*"

Unlike other athletes, Jasmin has no pre-competition rituals. "There are so many variable conditions during a meet. I keep myself flexible so I won't be caught off-guard if there are changes." What she does is relax, chat with friends, watch television or, if time permits, go malling and buy her comfort food at the supermarket. Then she spends time alone to prepare her equipment and do some visualizing. At the firing range, she is usually quiet, a smile lighting up her face occasionally.

"When I'm shooting, I focus only on position, sights and squeezing. Unrelated thoughts are counter-productive. I push them out of my mind," bares this riflewoman who's just a mite taller than five feet.

Losing is no big deal either, she adds. "I don't really consider it devastating to the point that it would kill me. If I lose, there will be another game. I'll be sad and disappointed but that's how life is. You can't win all the time."

Things used to be different. Jasmin used to hate losing. Younger and less athletic than her cousin-playmates, she'd fake a tummy ache or invent assorted body pains when tagged at hide and seek. "I wasn't fast enough to catch anyone so I'd quit with a limp excuse. My cousins would've lynched me if they could. *Madaya raw ako,*" she recounts with glee. Ostracized by her peers, she would find solace with Voltes V or the Sesame Street characters. "I didn't like Barbie."

Roundabout this time, she was slowly being exposed to guns. "Dad was a hunting enthusiast who encouraged me to fire at an early age. I didn't get serious though until I was a college sophomore when I joined the Ateneo Rifle Pistol Team." Former national and Ateneo coach Danny Flores, whom Rash still consults every now and then, trained her for three months for the National Open, her first outing. She came in third and qualified for the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asia Shooting Championship, her third competition.

But doesn't her sport scare off would-be suitors?

She laughs. "We've been typecast. They think it's scary to court us because we're shooters. People don't know it but we shooters learn to be gentle and be disciplined. I don't even bring a gun outside the firing range. But love will come in time. I won't seek it out. Right now, my training schedule keeps me really busy, especially with the coming 2002 Korea Asiad."

Assessing our chances in Pusan, she says confidently: "With a structured training program, government support and plenty of opportunities to participate in international competitions, the RP shooters can place well. We might even bag the top positions in Korea. Filipinos can be at par with Asian powerhouses like China, Korea and Thailand."

As in previous check-ups, Philippine sports has been found to be seriously ill after the Kuala Lumpur campaign. However, right or wrong and with the help of a media blitz, the poor performance has been pumped and propped up to appear like one big success

SEA Games: Third Class to Happy Ending

THE LAST TIME WE CELEBRATED A NATIVE WARRIOR IN THE OLYMPICS, IT WAS THROUGH A BOXER WHO CAPTURED WHAT OUR WELL-TRAVELED SPORTS OFFICIALS WOULD BOLDLY CALL A "NEAR GOLD."

What Onyok Velasco won in the Atlanta Olympics was only the flyweight boxing silver medal but he was accorded a grand hero's welcome. He also received all sorts of rewards and incentives.

It was easy to brand that feat by Onyok, whom we would reluctantly lose to the entertainment world, half-baked. Onyok failed to land the gold medal, period. But Philippine sports was in dire need of heroes so we celebrated the tiny gladiator, with that near-miss of his, as though he had bagged the real thing.

Meanwhile, the desperate quest for the Philippines' first Olympic gold continues.

Last seen, the gold-medal hunters were headed in the wrong direction. In fact, the Philippine contingent returned empty-handed from its campaign in last year's Sydney Olympics. No silver and, mind you, not even a dull glint of the lowly bronze.

In a previous major international campaign, specifically the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, the Philippines failed miserably in its wild chase for big honors. Fortunately, a couple of thin and pale billiard players salvaged the country's lone gold medal before the Asiad could close.

You see, the Olympics and the Asiad are the certified testing grounds of a people's lineage, stock and upbringing; so we could only imagine with a shudder what the belated triumph of those sickly pool parlor boys had projected.

Those sorry sorties in the previous Asiad and Olympics, both major outings, clearly confirmed that, although the Philippines competes in major international events, these competitions also serve as a tired diagnosis of national sporting ills. The problem is, the same old afflictions keep resurfacing year after year and no cure has appeared in sight.

But because sports, just like Hollywood, needs heroes, the Philippines has been trying its luck in the Southeast Asian Games since 1977.

Strictly speaking, the SEA Games cannot be ranked with the Olympics or the Asian Games. Compared to the two major international meets, the SEA Games is a third-rate shadow. But we have been competing in the SEA Games because Philippines sports cannot hope to thrive and re-develop if hometown fans are left to grieve and welcome failed native athletes upon their return from major international events like the Olympics.

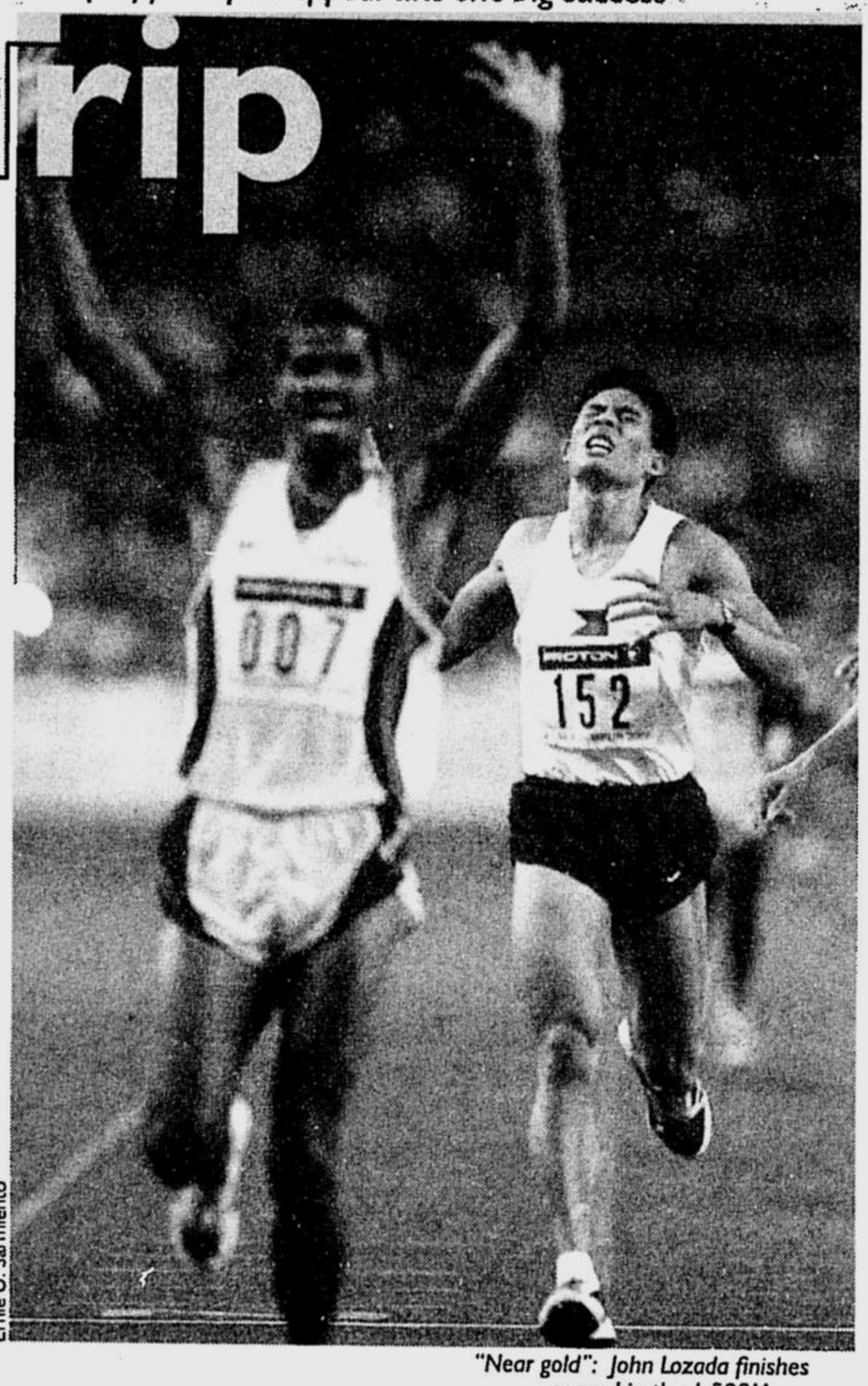
Yes, compared to the rocky trips to the Olympics and the Asiad, going to the SEA Games is like going to a party for the Philippine contingent. There are medals galore in this biennial meet among neighboring Southeast Asian nations. The quality of competitions in the SEA Games has made sure that even wilted Filipino athletes can partake of the feast.

And yet, despite the lowly competition, it has not always been smooth sailing for the RP contingent in the SEA Games. In fact, the group hit a record low when it slid miserably to fifth overall in the Brunei Games of 1999.

For the record, the Philippines did not do any better when it competed in the 21st edition of the SEA Games hosted by Malaysia last month. Aside from failing to collect the projected 40 gold medals, RP was overtaken by Vietnam and was left languishing at fifth over-all, not too distant from the likes of Laos, Cambodia and Brunei.

Philippine sports, as in previous check-ups, has been found to be seriously ill after the Kuala Lumpur campaign. However, right or wrong and with the help of a media blitz, the poor performance has been pumped and propped up to appear like one big success.

Rich monetary incentives, most of them courtesy of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, have greatly helped



Ernie U. Sarmiento

"Near gold": John Lozada finishes second in the 1,500M run

change the picture of the failed Filipino athlete. This novel try at grand delusion has never been done before but only time and future results will tell if the ploy would reap dividends.

It's also inevitable that us plain sports fans become party to this new game in town. Yes, we could only agree that there should be a time for winning and a time for losing; a season to rejoice and a time to grieve. But, in a queasy way, this thing about the Southeast Asian Games, where Filipinos are finally allowed to partake of the gold-medal fiesta, is not unlike the old movie house set-ups of old. Back in the '50s, fresh blockbusters from Hollywood were simply too expensive. The new films, shown in first-class movie palaces in the big city, were beyond the reach of poor barrio lads.

Simply told, we had no choice but wait for months, even a full year, before these great films were finally shown in steamy, bug-infested third-class movie houses—Mactan, Moderno, Rio, Bellevue, Riverside—at the city outskirts. By the time these terrific movies, their stories told and retold by rich, luckier kids in the neighborhood, became available to us, they were older than history. Still we would delude ourselves that everything was exciting and brand new. We would also enter the world of make-believe.

Yes, those third-class movie thrills, just like the third-class medals available in the SEA Games, should now be no less exciting to our athletes and our creative sports officials, as well. After all, the poor Pinoy also deserves a happy ending.

21st Southeast Asian Games

List of Medalists

Gold

ATHLETICS
Eduardo Buenavista, 3000M Steeplechase (M)
Fidel Gallenero, Decathlon
John Lozada, 800 M (M)
Ernie Candelario, 400M (M)
Elma Muros-Posadas, Heptathlon
Eduardo Buenavista, 5000 M (M)
Roy Vence, Marathon (M)
Christabel Martes, Marathon (W)

ARCHERY
Purita Joy Marino, Individual (W)

BASKETBALL
Rommel Adducul, Christian Calaguio, Ruben Dela Rosa, Edgar Echavez, Hubert John Ferriols, Eddie Laure, Vincent Hizon, Victor Pedro Martin, Omanzie Rodriguez, Jomar Tierra, Ercito Victolero and Junel Mendiola, Men's Team

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER
Lee Van Corteza, 8 Ball Singles
Warren Kiamco, 15 Ball Singles
Antonio Lining, 9 Ball Singles

BOWLING
Arianne Cerdena Valdez and Liza del Rosario, Women's Doubles
Chester King, Christian Suarez, Leonardo Rey Jr., Men's Trios
Chester King, Christian Suarez, Engelberto Rivera, Benito Dytoc Jr., Leonardo Rey Jr., Men's 5-Men Team
Leonardo Rey Jr., Men's All-Events

FENCING
Walbert G. Mendoza, Sabre Men Individual

GOLF
Juvic Pagunsan, Men's Individual

JUDO
John Baylon, Half Middleweight

KARATEDO
Jose Mari Pabillore, Men Ind. Kumite - Above 80 kg.
Gretchen Malalad, Women Ind. Kumite - Above 60 kg.

SHOOTING
Rasheya Jasmin Luis, 50M SB F Riffle 3P (W) Ind.

TAEKWONDO
Veronica Domingo, Light: 59-63 kg. (Woman)
Roberto Cruz, Fin: Below 54 Kg. (M)
Ma. Nelia Sy Ycasas, Welter: 63-67 kg. (W)

WUSHU
Mark Robert Rosales, Gunshu (Men)
Willy Wang, Qiangshu (M)
Marques Sangio, Sanshou - 60kg (M)
Jerome Anton Calica, Sanshou - 52kg (M)

Silver

ATHLETICS
Daud Mama, 3000M Steeplechase (M)
Lerma Balauitan, Long Jump (W)
Geralyn Amandoron, Javelin Throw (W)
Joebert Delicano, Long Jump (M)
Sean Guevara, High Jump (M)
John Lozada, 1500 M (M)
Narcisa Atienza, High Jump (W)
Rodrigo Tanuan, Ernie Candelario, Jimar Aing, Ronnie Marfil, 4 X 400 Relay (M)
Dandy Gallenero, Javelin Throw (M)
Percela Ilo Molina, Heptathlon
Allan Ballester, Marathon (M)

BILLIARDS & SNOOKER
Marlon Manalo and Benjamin Guevarra, Snooker Doubles
Marlon Manalo, Benjamin Guevarra, Felipe Tauro and James Ortega, Snooker Team
Efren Bata Reyes, 8 Ball Singles
Lee Van Corteza, 9 Ball Singles
Efren Bata Reyes, 15 Ball Singles
Warren Kiamco and Vivancio Tanio, 9 Ball Doubles

BOWLING
Ma. Cecilia Yap, Women's Singles
Ma. Cecilia Yap, Women's All-Around Events
Josephine Canare and Irene Garcia, Women's Doubles (Tenpin)
Liza Clutario, Liza del Rosario and Ma. Cecilia Yap, Women's Trios
Liza Clutario, Josephine Canare, Irene Garcia, Liza del Rosario and Ma. Cecilia Yap, Women's 5-Women Team
Liza del Rosario, Women's Masters

BOXING
Arlan Lerio, Bantamweight - 54 kg.
Ramil Zambales, Featherweight - 57 kg.

CYCLING
Paterno Curtan Jr., 30 km. Point Race – Track
Baby Marites Bitbit, 24 km. Cross Country - MTB (W)
Eusebio Quinones, 36 km. Cross Country - MTB (M)

DIVING
Sheila Ma. Perez, Women's 3-M Springboard

FENCING
Lenita Garcia Reyes, Foil Women Individual
Lorena Ann San Diego, Epee Women Individual
Edmon Sautog Velez, Sabre Men Individual
Richard Gomez, Epee Men Individual

GYMNASTICS
Pia Adelle Reyes, Women Competition II
Roel Ramirez, Men Competition III-FX

JUDO
Aristotle Lucero, Half Lightweight (M)
Abraham B. Pulia, Extra Lightweight (M)
Nancy Quillotes, Extra Lightweight (W)

KARATEDO
Junel Ong Perania, Men Ind. Kumite - Below 70kg

LAWN BOWLS
Vilma Rosalyn Greenlees and Maria Rivera, Women's Pairs

PENCAK SILAT
Aleilie Fernandez, Singles (W)
Abdulkararim, Singles (M)
Edwin Simacon, Class D (M)
Christopher Yabut, Class B (M)

ROWING
Edgardo Maerina, Nark Galvez, Jose Rodriguez and Alvin Ampoya, Lightweight Men's Coxless Four
Nestor Ison Cordova and Harvey Vargas Regalado, Men's Coxless Pair (M2-)
Benjie Tolentino, Men's Single Scull (Mix)

SAILING
Ridgely Balladares and Rommel Chavez, International 470 (M)

SHOOTING
Jethro Dionisio, Eric Ang and Jaime Recio, Trap (Men) Team
Emerito Concepcion, 10M Air Riffle (M) Ind.
Jethro Dionisio, Trap (Men) Individual
Nathaniel Padilla, 25M Rpd Fire Pistol (M) Ind.
Paul Brian Rosario, Skeet (M) Ind.

SWIMMING
Lizza Danila, Women's 200M Backstroke
Jenny Guerrero, Womens 100M Breaststroke
Miguel Mendoza, Men's 400M Freestyle
Lizza Danila, Women's 100M Backstroke
Juan Carlo Piccio, Men's 400M Ind. Medley
Miguel Mendoza, Men's 1500M Freestyle

TAEKWONDO
Kalindi Tamayo, Feather: 55-59 kgs.
Margarita Estela Bonifacio, Heavy Above 72kg.
Eva Marie Ditan, Fin: Below 47 kg. (W)
Donald David Geisler, Light: 67-72 kg. (M)
Sally Solis, Middle: 67-72 kg. (W)

WUSHU
Lily So, Nanquan (Woman)
Nganhayna, Sanshou - 56kg (M)

Bronze

ATHLETICS
Lerma Balauitan, 100M (W)
Roberto Fresnido, Decathlon
Arniel Ferrera, Hammer Throw
Joebert Delicano, Triple Jump

BASKETBALL
Ma. Susan Bambino, Mary Ellyn Caasi, Eleonor Chua, Cristina Columna, Estrellita Enriquez, Sheila Esteban, Sheilalyn Gabagat, Catherine Keyes, Bimbie Manalaysay, Minerva Narciza, Charmaine Salalila and Emelia Vega, Women's Team

BILLIARDS
Marlon Manalo
Benjamin Guevarra
Efren Reyes
Reynaldo Grandea

BOWLING
Irene Romero Garcia, Women's Singles

BOXING
Larry Semillano, Lightweight – 60 kg
Maximino Tabangcora, Middleweight 75 kg
Violito M.Payla, Flyweight 51 kg
Romeo Brin, Light Welterweight 63.5 kg
Reynaldo Galido, Welterweight - 67kg

CYCLING
Wilson Blas, Paulo Manapul, Victor Espiritu and Lloyd Lucien Reynante, 4 km. Team Pursuit (M)
Wilson Blas, Nilo Estayo and Ernesto Medina Jr., Olympic Sprint - Track (M)
Victor Espiritu, 45km. Ind. Time trial-Road (M)
Arnel Quirimit, 180 km Mass Start

DIVING
Zardo Domenios, Men's 3M Springboard
Zardo Domenios and Jaime Vasok, Men's 3M Synchronized

FENCING
Rolando Canlas, Foil Men Individual

GOLF
Juvic Pagunsan, Jay E. Bayron, Marvin Dumandan and Jesselito Saragoza, Men's Team
Heidi Chua, Ruby Chico and Carmelette Villaroman, Women's Team

GYMNASTICS
Pia Adelle Reyes, Precious Aissa Reyes, Anna Francesca Cruz, Phoebe Espiritu and Aianna Difonturon, Women's Competition I - Team
Pia Adelle Reyes, Women Competition III-FX

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COVER...from page 7

was really what I waited for."

While Gretchen is a talented and focused martial art expert, she is, by her own admission, a harmless person. "I'm really just a simple girl, *mababaw*," she smiles. A confessed optimist, Gretchen enjoys reading a lot, particularly the Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling and horror stories as well. She is also a very big animé buff, most notably of the series "Rurouni Kenshin" or "Samurai X" (now you know why she had that X painted on her cheek).

And how's this for her diet? "I love to eat, *sobra*," she laughs, "and I pig out on ice cream." Her closely-knit family keeps her grounded even as she looks forward to the future. "There are many things I want to do," she explains. She loves karate and plans to stay involved in the sport forever—but doesn't want it to be the end-all and be-all of her life. "I probably will stay in it actively until 2005, and then I'd move to other things." A new job, for example, is foremost on her mind.

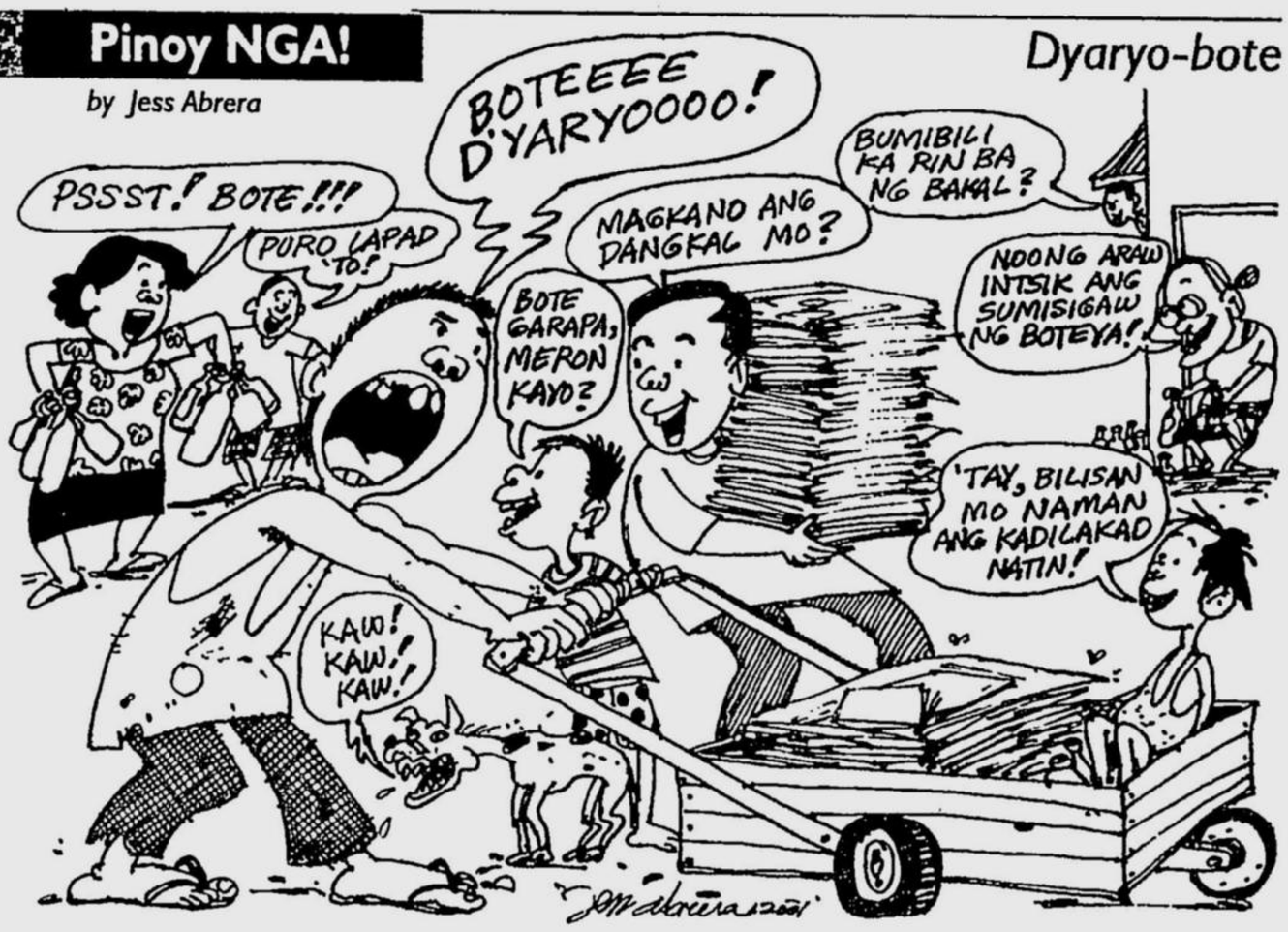
Karateka with the X-factor: Gretchen's animé homage at the Games

Since her triumphant return from Kuala Lumpur with the individual gold and a bronze from a team event, Gretchen has become the most recognizable face among a new batch of sporting heroes. She has been approached for autographs at restaurants and is a favorite whenever the karate team goes on promotional appearances. "At a karate tournament in Nueva Ecija, the kids told me that they liked watching me fight. And I was happy because this is what it's about." She takes seriously this opportunity to help popularize karatedo. "It's a sport we can really be good at." She's also doing her bit to train new talents in the sport, teaching karate at the School of the Holy Spirit in Quezon City, a job she really likes.

In the meantime, she is training once again. There is, after all, no rest for newly minted heroes. There is the international meet in Malaysia in late October. "I want to get better and to win more international competitions." Now that Gretchen Malalad, the knockout with knockout power, has that coveted gold medal from the SEA Games, she has a new dream. "Karate will be an official sport at the 2004 Olympics," Gretchen Malalad predicts, smiling shyly. Then, after the tiniest of pauses, she says, "And I want that Olympic gold."

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera



LIST...from page 1

Precious Aissa Reyes, Women Competition III-BE
Ma. Angelica Basco, Competition III – Ball

JUDO

Rolando Dino, Half Heavyweight (M)
Sidney Schwarzkopf, Middleweight (M)
Karen Ann Solomon, Middleweight (W)
Aiza Marie Ano, Half Heavyweight (W)
Elmarie Malasan, Lightweight (W)

KARATEDO

Mariano Bonifacio, Men Ind. Kumite - Below 75 kg.
Gretchen Malalad, Dianne Moral, Cherli Tugday and Ma. Marna Pabillore, Women's Team Kumite
Ryan Mariano III, Khim Torres, Ireneo Soriano Jr., Junnel Perania, Jose Maria Pabillore, Ernesto Halili Jr. and Jerome Laplana, Men's Team Kumite
Ma. Marna Pabilllore, Women Ind. Kumite - Below 48 kg.
Maricar Rimando, Women Ind. Kumite - Below 53 kg.

LAWN BOWLS

Alicia Knight, Women's Singles
Marlo Dagpin and Reginaldo Bugo, Men's Pairs

PENCAK SILAT

Juvy Jumuad, Class D (W)
Emma Tianchon, Class A (W)
Evangeline Caguioa, Class E (W)
Adzhar Abdurasad, Christopher Yabut and Vivencio Donquez, Silat Seni Regu

ROWING

Edgardo Maerina and Jose Rodriguez, Lightweight Double Sculls (LM2)
Myla Babilonia and Josalyn Permejotol, Women's Coxless Pair (W2-)

SHOOTING

Carolino Gonzales, Marelo Gonzales and Gilbert Escobar, 10M Air Pistol (M) Team
Christopher Arceo, Emerito Concepcion and Roberto Bote, 10M Air Riffle (M) Team
Carlos Medina, Nathaniel Padilla and Inocentes Dionesa, 25M Rpd Fire Pistol (M) Team
Jaime Recio, Rodolfo Martinez and Jose Ramon Corral, Double Trap (M) Team
Jaime Recio, Double Trap (M) Individual

SQUASH

Edgar Ballebar, Arnel Bergonia, Joboy Antipola and Ricky Espinola, Men's Team Event

SWIMMING

Juan Carlo Piccio, Miguel Mendoza, Miguel Molina and Mark Kalaw, Men's 4x200M Freestyle
Lizza Danila, Jenny Guerrero, Luica Dacanay and Lynette Ang, Women's 4x100M Medley
Jenny Guerrero, Women's 200M Breaststroke
Jenny Guerrero, Women's 400M Ind. Medley

TAEKWONDO

Manuel Rivero, Bantam: 58-62 kg. (Men)
Jeferthom Go, Feather: 62-67 kg (Men)
Jasmin Strachan, Bantam: 51-55 kg. (Women)
Dax Alberto Morfe, Middle: 78-84 kg. (M)
Dindo Simpao, Heavy Above 84 kg. (M)

TENNIS

Czarina Mae Arevalo, Kara Guzman and Jennifer Saret, Women's Team
Johnny Arcilla, Joseph Lizardo, Michael Mora and Joseph Victorino, Men's Team

VOLLEYBALL

Deanna Araos, Johanna Botor, Marietta Carolino, Michelle Carolino, Sherrilyn Carillo, Helen Dosdos, Jocelyn De Gorostiza, Ma. Teresa dela Rosa, Michelle Laborte, Roxanne Pimentel, Cherry Rose Rivera and Christina Salak, Women's Team

WEIGHTLIFTING

Nicolas Jaluag, Category 94kg (M)
Alvin delos Santos, Category 105 kg and Above (M)

WUSHU

Arvin Ting, Daoshu (Men)
Willy Wang, Jianshu (Men)
Bobby Co, Taijiquan & Taijijian (M)
Lily So, Nandao & Nangun (W)

This Week

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Art

Coffeexposure, a group exhibition on coffee photography, until Oct. 24 at the Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Makati.

Mirada Española, an exhibit of 30 avant-garde, cutting-edge photographs by renowned Spanish photographers Pablo Genovés, Ricky Davila and Alberto Garcia-Alix at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Central Bank Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila until Nov. 3. For details, call 523-7855.

Mandarin Oriental, Manila and Hiraya Gallery unveil at The Tivoli a rich collection of paintings demonstrating vivid images of fruits, flowers and sunshine by *Valeria Cavestany* ongoing until December. For details, call 750-8888 ext. 2431.

"Golden Trumpets" by Susan Africa, on exhibit at Gallery 139

Floral Melodies, a collection of tempera paintings with tropical floral themes by Susan Africa, Oct. 25 to Nov. 6 at Gallery 139, Artwalk Level 4, SM Megamall Bldg. A.

Likhang Likas, an exhibit of the graduating batch of the Philippine School of Interior Design interpreting the four elements—earth, water, air, fire—in residential and commercial designs, until Nov. 10 at the 9/F, Urban Bank Plaza, Makati City.

Gallery of Joy opening sale, featuring artworks by Hermes Alegre, Luis Ac-ac, Jovito Andres, Remy Boquiren, Carlomagno, Roland delos Santos, Jun Martinez, Pat Reyes, Lydia Velasco and many more at Kingswood Arcade, Vito Cruz Ext., Makati City until Oct. 30. For details, call 896-5005.

Music

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines presents the first historic tour of **The Suk Chamber Orchestra** which will perform on Oct. 23, 8 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater. The concert is presented in celebration of the National Day of the Czech Republic and in commemoration of the recent tragedy in America. For tickets, call 832-3704 and 832-3878.

Live Bands @ The Prince: Thursday—'60s to '70s music by the Freedom Band; Friday—Latin and Jazz with The Marmalade; Saturday—rock 'n' roll with Snafu. Showtime: 10 p.m. at The Prince, basement of Greenbelt New Plaza Building, Makati. For inquiries, call 815-4273/74.

Onstage

Trumpets presents **Fables and Parables** at Stageworx, 5th Level, Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Oct. 27 at 4:30 p.m. Seating is on a first-come first-served basis only. For ticket inquiries, call 633-5010 and 633-4387.

Atbp

The DLWF BookClub of De La Salle University-Manila will hold a **book discussion** on "Ben Singkol" on Oct. 27, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Afterwords Cafe/Filipino Bookstore, Malate, Manila, with National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose and Seawrite Awardee Isagani R. Cruz as featured writer and critic. For inquiries, call 524-4611 loc. 509 and 532.

Maricaban Bay Palawan October Promo. Experience Palawan for only P7,500 per person inclusive of airfare, transfers, accommodations and daily breakfast. Children up to 18 years old are given free accommodations, transfers and breakfast. For inquiries, call 838-4956 to 63 or email maricbay@info.com.ph.

The Blue Eagles Gymnastics Academy offers *gymnastics classes for boys and girls* at the Ateneo de Manila High School covered court, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 411-9054 or 920-8672.

The Research and Extension for Development Office of the UP College of Social Work and Community Development will conduct a *training for social development practitioners* with the theme Innovative Practices in Community Organizing on Oct. 24-26. For details, call Leticia S. Tojos or Kevin Roy B. Serrona at 929-24-77 or telefax 929-84-38.

The Film Development Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. will hold its annual *scriptwriting contest and scriptwriting workshop* open to all Filipino scriptwriters, professionals and non-professionals who wish to pursue a scriptwriting career for television and the movies. Deadline for submission of entries for the contest is on Dec. 14. For inquiries, call 551-4677 or 832-1125 locals 2113 to 2116.

The Heritage Conservation Society will hold a *walking tour of the North Cemetery* on Oct. 27, 2-4:30 p.m. You can pay homage to several of Manila's prominent historical figures right where they lay or roam through its opulent mausoleums and tombs. For details, call 521-2239 or 522-2497.

Museo Pambata's **Christmas Cards 2001 edition** is now available in four designs by Ang INK (Ilustrador ng Kabataan) artists. Proceeds from card sales will go to Museo Pambata's Mobile Library program and literacy campaign which brings books and storytelling to underserved communities in Manila and neighboring cities. With a minimum order of 300 cards per design, Museo Pambata can print your company name/logo with message inside the cards at no extra cost. Blank cards are also available in packs of 10. For inquiries, call 523-1797 or 98 or email mpfi@museopambata.org.

In a half-day **family spiritual recollection,** angel counselor Nonoy Ozaeta will assist you in coming together in one spirit, meeting your family angel, understanding the troubles on your family's path and reinforcing the bond forged by God through your family angel. This will be held on Oct. 27 at the Center for Health and Creative Arts (CHACRA), #59 C. Salvador St., PhilDHRRA Compound, Loyola Heights, QC. For details, call 4345381/0919-7091436.

Ayala Museum reopens its dioramas and boat room collection to the public at the 3/F of Glorietta 2. It is a temporary venue until the new museum building opens at the Greenbelt in 2003. For details, call 812-1191 to 97.

Ony Carcamo brings his **Laff&Learn Kidshow Ventriloquism Program** to Powerbooks and The Children's Library. The unique live show teaches kids character-building concepts using magic, puppetry, and the ancient art of voice throwing. Watch Ony and his animated characters at The Children's Library in Robinsons Ortigas on Oct. 27, 1:45 p.m. and at Powerbooks Alabang on Oct. 28, 3 p.m. For details, call 0917-3846590.

Adarna House and Filipinas Heritage Library invites all teens 13-16 to submit their works in fiction, essay or poetry, and vie for a slot in the **2nd Annual Teen Lit Camp,** a weeklong out-of-town camp for teen writers. All submissions should be typewritten and submitted to Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., QC. Deadline is Jan. 25, 2002. For inquiries, call 372-3548 or 49.

Poetry for beginners, Oct. 28, 1 p.m. at 4/F COD Building, Cubao. For details, call 285-2449.

Visit Museo Pambata every Friday, 10-11 a.m. during its weekly PBBY **Storytelling Hour.** Featured storyteller on Oct. 26 is Delia Mandap. For inquiries, call 523-1797.

It's a Fair Trade, Corinthian Gardens Bazaar 2001, to be held at the Corinthian Gardens clubhouse on Oct. 26-28, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For details, call 633-0985.

You can swim, gym, aero and martial arts at the **PWU-Totalle Wellness and Fitness Center,** J. Nakpil cor. Taft Avenue, Manila for P950 for one whole month. Open to all students. For details, call 534-2609 or 526-8421 loc. 142.

The **Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts** located at the Bon Appetit, 3/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall offers the following classes: *Hamon at Pandesal* (Oct. 26) and My Eclectic *Media Noche* (Oct. 29). For inquiries, call 634-7464 loc. 214.

Apriori, the independent line under the Escada Group located at the 2nd Level, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, is going on a **final clearance sale** until Oct. 31. Avail yourself of up to 70 percent discount on party dresses, daytime apparel, shoes, loafers and beaded slippers.

Executive Editors Inc. is offering a whole range of seminars in its **Corporate Communication Toolchest:** Writing for Results in Business (Oct. 25-26); Corporate News and Feature Writing (Nov. 14); Corporate Newsletter Publishing (Nov. 15-16); Write Press Releases That See Print (Nov. 21); Producing Effective Annual Reports Cost Effectively (Nov. 23); Grammar for Smart People (Nov. 29), and Copy Editing for Newsletter Editors (Dec. 13-14). For details, call 887-3797 or 98.

I Love You Yaya, a training seminar workshop for yayas on how to effectively care for children, Oct. 22 and 27, 9a.m. to 5 p.m. at Room 11 and 12, Santuario De San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati. For details, call Janice 780-9898 or Jaymie 0917-5361396.

X-manila

The UP Hamili-Hamilia Foundation Inc., the Dinagyang Foundation, the city and provincial governments of Iloilo and the Dept. of Tourism Region VI invite athletes to the **Triathlon 2002: The Iloilo Challenge.** Registration is ongoing. Download registration forms through vmarina@miagao.i-next.net. For details, call (02) 809-2713 or (033) 3373889.

The Philippine Art Educators Association Inc., an organization of art educators and cultural workers, will hold its **annual convention** at the Teachers Camp and Tam-Awan Village in Baguio City on Oct. 26-28 with the theme Curriculum Integration Through the Arts. For details, call 751-7842 and 926-0193.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

26 Abus killed in clashes in Jolo, Basilan

STORY ON PAGE 7

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001 ★ 76 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 316 ₱15

Concert for NY heroes

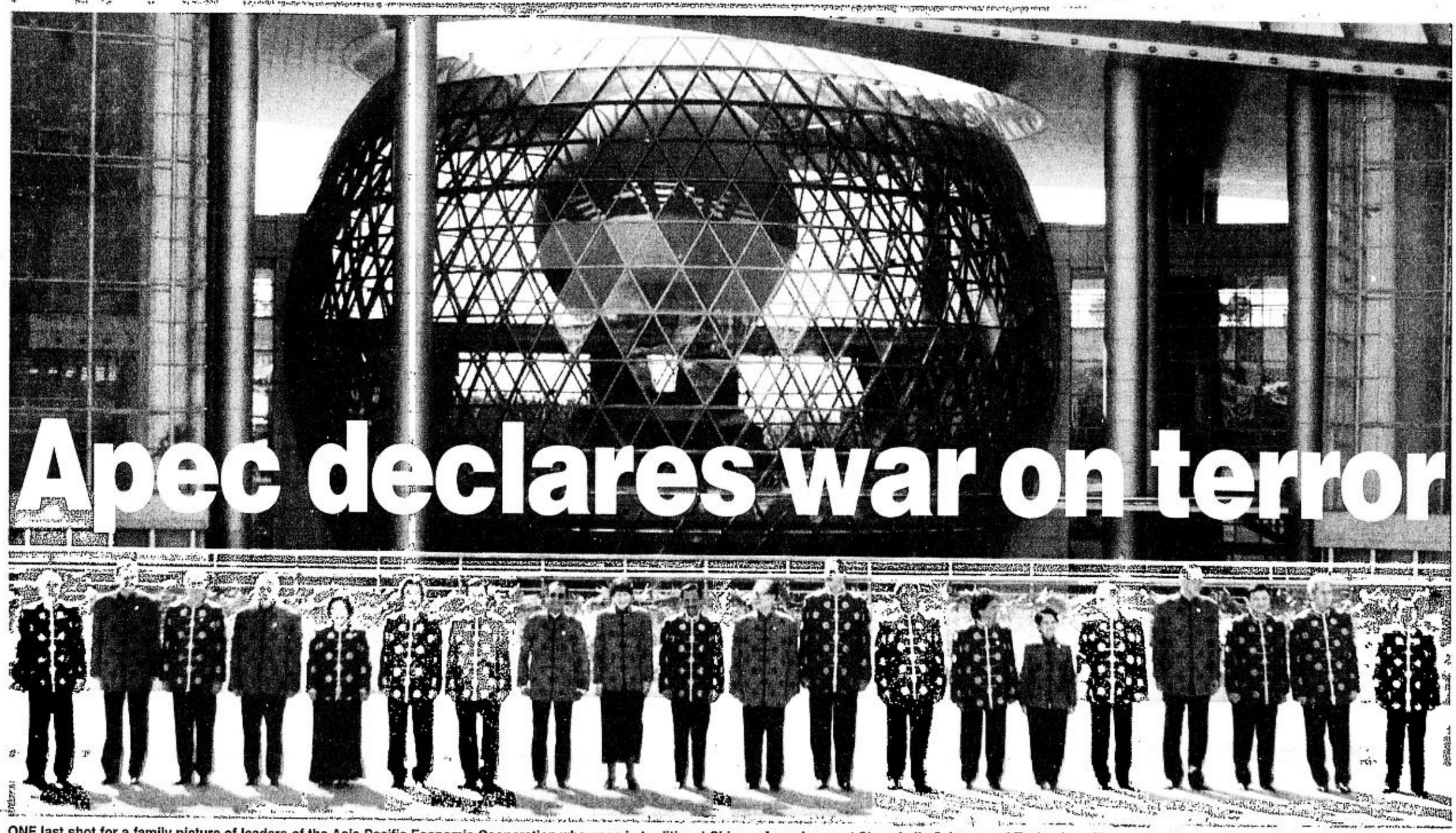
NEW YORK—Paul McCartney, David Bowie, Elton John, Billy Joel joined other performers Saturday in a "Concert for New York," which served as a benefit for the city while celebrating its resiliency in a time of crisis.

David Bowie kicked

CONCERT/ A20

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Anthrax probers look for source** WORLD / A11
- **'Kumander Bawang' vs anthrax** ACROSS / A18
- **Sex workers rush to Angeles** ACROSS / A16
- **Taiwan firm threatens pullout** BUSINESS / B1



Apec declares war on terror

ONE last shot for a family picture of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation who pose in traditional Chinese formal wear at Shanghai's Science and Technology Museum on Sunday. From left, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Chilean President Ricardo Lagos Escobar, Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Mexican President Vicente Fox, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Mekere Morauta, Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, US President George W. Bush and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai. AP

But leaders won't back US military drive; Bush disappointed

SHANGHAI, China—Leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation on Sunday condemned the terrorist attacks in America as "murderous deeds" and demanded international cooperation in fighting terrorism—although they did not endorse the ongoing US military campaign in Afghanistan.

It was a disappointment, however, for US President George W. Bush who had wanted a more direct support for his military campaign against the Taliban regime of Afghanistan and the al-Qaida network of terror suspect Osama bin Laden. The final communiqué made no mention of the war in Afghanistan.

Apec delegates had previously said they would not be able to mention the war or the Taliban protection of Bin Laden, the key suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, because of the political sensibilities of two large predominantly Muslim nations in the economic forum: Indonesia and Malaysia.

But a senior official of the Bush administration played down the omission. It was "not a setback at all," the official said.

"We're thrilled with the statement," the official said, citing measures in the statement committing Apec members to clamp down on

APEC/ A21

US bombing leaves 8 civilians dead

KABUL—Cursing the aim of US pilots, distraught residents of Kabul on Sunday pulled the dust-covered bodies of women and children from the rubble of two homes shattered by an American bomb.

"This pilot must have been blind," Haziz Ullah, a local resident, sobbed. "There are no military bases here—only innocent people."

Pentagon officials were not immediately available for comment.

US President George W. Bush has come under pressure from Muslim countries to keep his military campaign short and avoid the killing of civilians.

Neighbors said the victims died when a US bomb struck their homes at midday in the Khair Khana district in northern Kabul, several kilometers away from a Taliban garrison and other military installations.

Afghan officials also reported air attacks Sunday in the western city of Herat, in the southern city of Kandahar, and in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

An Associated Press reporter saw the bodies of seven dead—three women and four children—at the scene and later at the hospital where victims were taken.

Neighbors reported that at least eight people were killed. But Dr. Izetullah at the city's Wazir Akbar Khan hospital said 13 bodies had been brought there—all apparently

US/ A21

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, wearing a burgundy mandarin-style silk jacket, is welcomed by Chinese President Jiang Zemin. AP

GMA 'cute' in Apec family look

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

SHANGHAI, China (via PLDT)—Hours before leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation wore the clothes provided by the host country for a group photograph, President Macapagal-Arroyo displayed hers to Filipino reporters, ending speculations in this city about what attire the leaders would wear.

Ms Macapagal gamely donned a burgundy mandarin-style silk jacket and preened before reporters Saturday night at the Marriot Hotel here where the President, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and some Cabinet members were billeted.

GMA/ A4

Talks on for sick priest, but AFP poised to strike

BY CARLITO PABLO AND HERNAN P. DELA CRUZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DESPITE the release of Chinese hostage Zhang Zhongyi, the military is poised to strike at the Pentagon kidnap gang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

"The 6th Infantry Battalion is already pre-positioned," Tiglao said.

In a separate interview, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said "troops have entered the suspected lair" of the Pentagon, presumed to be also behind the Oct. 17 abduction of Italian missionary Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

"I've talked with (Armed Forces Southern Command chief Lt.) Gen. Roy Cimatu and pursuit operations are ongoing," Golez said, without elaborating.

But the Army general directing the pursuit said negotiations for Pierantoni's release were under way amid reports that the hostage had already fallen ill.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo also said the military on Saturday captured a gang member who had acted as lookout during the abduction.

He quoted the suspect, Abdul Mohammad, as saying "negotiations are ongoing for the priest's release."

Atutubo said the negotiating team, led by Zamboanga del Sur Bishop Zacarias Jimenez, was able to establish contact with the kidnappers. The group was assisted by Lanao del Sur Gov. Mamintal Adiong.

Adiong said the kidnappers had demanded ransom money, but of a still undetermined amount. They also reportedly told Adiong that Pierantoni had been stricken with amoebiasis, and that they feared the victim might suffer from dehy-

TALKS/ A20

Jordanian is Vizcaya hero

BY BEN MOSES EBREO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

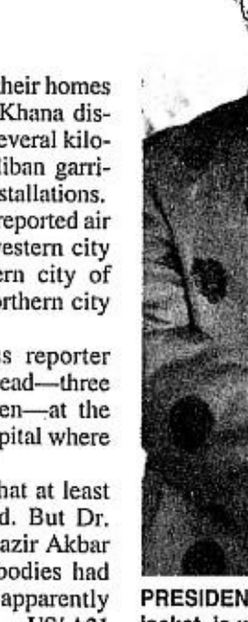
BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—His neighbors know him as a rich man who helps poor families. Local officials call him a "foreigner with a benevolent heart." In recognition of his deeds and services, the provincial board passed a resolution this year adopting him as a "son of Nueva Vizcaya," the first foreigner to be recognized as such.

But for Mahmoud Asfour, a 51-year-old Jordanian who lives in Barangay Casat, funding livelihood projects and sponsoring scholarship grants are only his way of repaying a debt of gratitude he owes to one Filipino.

Asfour, a former vice president of Citibank International and a former official of the International Monetary Fund, said he would never forget that single act of kindness; in the early 1990s, he said, that a Filipino "Good Samaritan" saved his life.

"I can never repay that Filipino for my life. I

JORDANIAN/ 20



MAHMOUD Asfour: Repaying Pinoy kindness. BEN MOSES EBREO

Senate hearings reduced to burlesque

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

THE US-led international coalition's campaign against terrorism, which the Macapagal administration has given full backing, has taken the heat off the scandals whose flames are being stoked by the opposition to scorch the President's husband, Mike Arroyo.

As the campaign enters the phase of landing US and British special forces in Afghanistan after more than a week of air strikes, the gripping developments of the war have reduced to an indecent burlesque the hearings in the Philippine Senate on allegations of money laundering and drug trafficking against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and of bribe taking against Arroyo.

The charges were hurled in an attempt to make the President reconsider her veto on the grant of legislative franchise to some telecommunications companies.

Witnesses, who apparently are guns for hire to embarrass the President, have also tried to link her to charges that sweepstakes money was

HEARINGS/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE

No US advisers on the front

By Carlito Pablo

THE MILITARY would welcome recommendations from visiting US anti-terrorism experts on how to rescue American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and other hostages from the Abu Sayyaf.

According to Malacañang spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, "If their (Americans') recommendations would be helpful, then we would incorporate them in the rescue of the hostages."

Tiglao was responding to a reporter's query on whether the presence of the American military team, which arrived in the country Friday, would make a difference in the ongoing rescue operations in Basilan.

"The Americans would assess how the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf has been going," Tiglao said.

They, however, would not be observing the battlefield at close range. "Basically they'll just be talking to our military officials," Tiglao said.

The Burnhams and another American, Guillermo Sobero, were among 20 hostages seized by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group from a Palawan resort on May 27.

Sobero was beheaded by his captors on June 11 as an "Independence Day gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Abu Sayyaf, an offshoot of the bigger Moro Islamic Liberation Front separatist group, has been linked to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC.

In a separate interview, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the visiting American experts could make their recommendations within the context "of a continuing sharing of information and intelligence."

"Given the conditions they will be observing, they could make recommendations like, say, what equipment would be needed," Golez said.

Tiglao said the government will reject the reported offer of the Abu Sayyaf to exchange the Burnham couple for Hector Janjalani, one of their leaders who is in military custody.

"We cannot do that," Tiglao said, adding this would violate the government's no-ransom policy.

"An exchange would be a form of ransom. Our policy is not to pay any ransom, even in kind," he said.

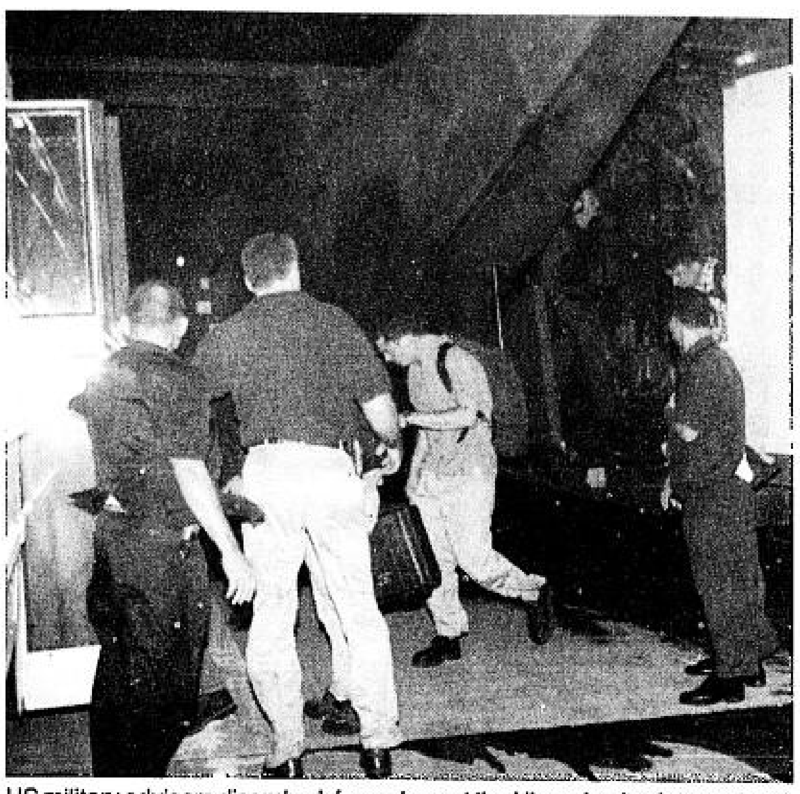
Tiglao said the Americans would help the Philippine military come up with a plan not only against the Abu Sayyaf but also against other terrorist groups he did not identify.

"It's basically a team to coordinate the anti-terrorism campaign here with the worldwide effort," said Tiglao of the American contingent which counts between 26 and 30 members led by two colonels.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, however, denounced the arrival of the US experts as "blatant interference" in the country's internal affairs.

In a statement, Ocampo said, "The distribution of military hardware and the training of Filipino troops will surely extend to a campaign against the Left's revolutionary forces and the MILF, as shown by historical US intervention in other countries."

"The fact that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said they're not coming here to shoot anybody (or) to give us equipment, while national security adviser Golez says their presence could mean some hardware items for us raises suspicions," Ocampo said.



US military advisers disembark from plane at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Friday night. ROGER MARGALLO

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26 Abus killed in clashes in Jolo, Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 26 Abu Sayyaf gunmen and one soldier were killed yesterday while nine other government troops were wounded in fierce clashes in Sulu and Basilan, an Army official said.

Army rangers were on patrol on Jolo island's Talipao town when they were attacked by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, triggering running gunbattles resulting in casualties on both sides, Southern Command operations chief Col. Roland Detabali said.

He said "heavy fighting erupted" and initially involved close-quarter combat.

Sixteen Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed and their bodies recovered by troops for identification at the town center.

One soldier was also slain while nine others were injured.

Southern Command chief Lt.Gen. Roy Cimatu said sporadic clashes continued until late yesterday afternoon, resulting in the deaths of two other guerrillas and forcing the military to dispatch two MG-520 attack helicopters to support ground troops and pound rebel positions.

In nearby Basilan, where another Abu Sayyaf unit is holding two Americans and nine Filipinos captive, a government militiaman was killed and beheaded by the rebels as they fled troops in Lantawan town *(See story below)*, triggering clashes, the military said.

Cimatu said at least eight Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed in Basilan in-clashes on Sunday.

He said reports from the field indicate the hostages, including the Americans, had been sighted with the rebels in a "thickly forested" area on the outskirts of Lantawan.

Cimatu said US anti-terrorist experts were also due to arrive in the South later this week to help train Filipino troops against the Abu Sayyaf, although they would not be engaged in combat operations.

Authorities in recent weeks have stepped up their offensives against the Abu Sayyaf following threats by the rebels they would execute US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham if the assault was not halted.

Sunday's casualties bring the total number of Abu Sayyaf deaths to about 70 this month, a significant blow to the self-styled Islamic freedom fighters who are believed to have links with Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden. *AFP*

Basilan folk terrorized by beheadings

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT

BASILAN—Life for the terrified residents of this sleepy province has become like the movie "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" except that instead of the Headless Horseman, you have the Abu Sayyaf bandits going on a beheading rampage.

"Local folk here are very much afraid that if they chance upon fleeing Abu Sayyaf bandits, they'd get beheaded," said the mayor of Lantawan town, Tahira Ismael.

Yesterday, one of Ismael's constituents, Abdurakib Abdurasid, became the latest beheading victim of the kidnap group.

Abdurasid, 34, was a militia member assigned to Lantawan's Punoh Mahadji area which is used to be an Abu Sayyaf lair.

Abdurasid and his brother, Ganib, were on their way to report for duty at 4 a.m. yesterday when they stumbled on a group of Abu Sayyaf bandits led by brothers Omair and Bassal Taib.

The bandits seized Abdurakib and beheaded him. Ganib was able to escape.

"I am running out of patience. I have asked the military not to stop me from hunting down these bandits," said the lady mayor.

Four Lantawan residents have been beheaded since May. In 1997, four town residents met the same fate.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of the 103rd Army Brigade, said the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan have beheaded a total of 18 hostages, excluding the five soldiers who were beheaded during the military offensives in Tuburan and Lantawan towns in June and September.

Basilan residents are now gripped by fear.

Caridad Solano, 57, a resident of Barangay Sumagdang in Isabela City, said she does not open her door to anyone nor does she allow her children to play outside the house even during the day.

Martin Arelon, 62, another Sumagdang resident, said the doors and windows of his house have remained shut for the past six months.

"We used to be hospitable. We allowed people into our homes even late at night. But because of these beheadings, we've closed our doors," he said.

Arelon said that while some members of his family have transferred to Zamboanga City, he prefers to stay.

"I'm already old. I'd rather stay here to watch over our properties," he said.

Sobero buried in California

CATHEDRAL CITY, California—Family, friends and dignitaries have buried the remains of a California man abducted in May by Moro extremists in the Philippines.

Guillermo Sobero, 40, of Corona, was buried Friday after his remains were identified and flown to Los Angeles. Sobero was abducted in the Philippines on May 27 and later beheaded.

"I thought my dad would see me do something special in life like graduate from middle school," said his 13-year-old daughter, Aimee, before breaking into tears. "My dad didn't deserve this."

Rep. Mary Bono of Palm Springs, made a promise during the hour-long ceremony to help Aimee achieve her goal of attending a military academy.

Sobero was among a group of people abducted by the Moro extremist group Abu Sayyaf, which is known for kidnapping and beheading its victims.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya told local radio in June that his men beheaded Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" for President Macapagal-Arroyo. The group has suspected ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network that has been blamed for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Laboratory exams conducted earlier this month identified the remains as those of Sobero. Captured rebels who claimed to witness Sobero's beheading had led soldiers to a shallow grave on Basilan island, 885 km south of Manila. *AP*

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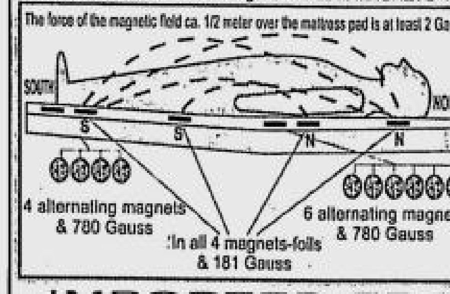

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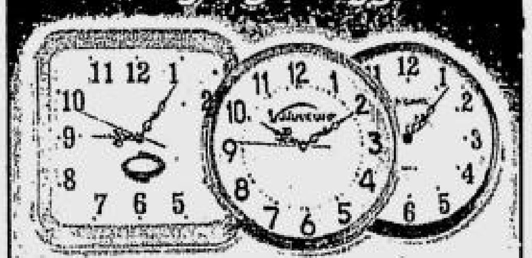
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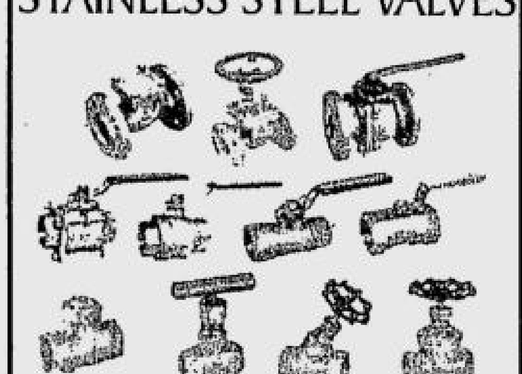
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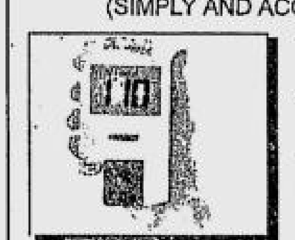
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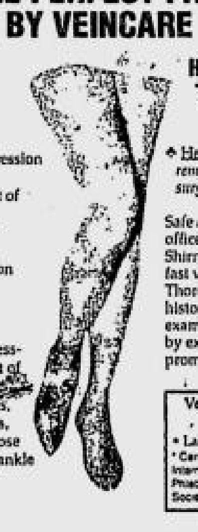
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GMA 'cute' in Apec family look

(From page A1)

"I'm overweight again by three pounds," Ms Macapagal said when reporters commented that the dress looked good on her. The President said the dress was sent to her while she was still in Manila.

The kind of dress the leaders would wear for the photo session yesterday had been the subject of much speculation here, according to the Apec in-house paper, Apec Today.

Continuing a yearly tradition at Apec summits, the host country designed identical clothing for the leaders including US President George W. Bush, Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Vladimir Putin for their informal retreat at the Science and Technology Museum, a gleaming new structure of glass and steel.

Bush wore patrician blue and Jiang opted for communist red. Putin also chose royal blue as his color for the brilliantly hued satin brocade coat chosen from patterns submitted by 40 Chinese designers.

The jackets featured Chinese-style cotton buttons and round patterns of peonies surrounding the four letters of Apec, over a white silk shirt.

The designs took a year of work, according to Apec secretariat spokesperson Zhang Qiyue. But the tailors may have benefited from a bit more time.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who has made a trademark out of looking disheveled, and Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo looked swamped in their blue jackets. Bush's sleeves came down to his knuckles.

The three female Apec leaders—Ms Macapagal, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark—were similarly attired in silk jackets over blouses.

In an informal survey of foreign reporters, quite a number voted Ms Macapagal as one of the delegates who looked "cute" in the attire.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung went his own way in opting for a bright green jacket, while Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Kai wore brown.

Megawati, Clark and Australian Prime Minister John Howard were joined by the outspoken prime minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, in opting for the firebrand red.

Mahathir added a pair of aviator shades for the group photograph taken in brilliant sunshine after the leaders had taken a stroll around the lush gardens of the museum in the center of China's commercial capital.

Family look

Indonesia set the "family look" trend in 1994 when it clothed Apec leaders in brightly colored batik shirts. Japan went for the "no necktie look" in 1995 while the Philippines reverted to traditional "barong Tagalog" white shirts in 1996, before Canada opted for leather jackets in 1997.

Batik shirts reappeared at the next year's summit in Malaysia, while 1999's Auckland meeting had the leaders in yachting shirts and jackets in the "All Black" look of New Zealand's national sports teams.

In Brunei last year the Apec look was the "baju melayu," a silk shirt traditionally worn at Muslim religious festivals.

Ms Macapagal was set to return to Manila last night, cutting her trip by one day.

This year's summit has been dominated by talks on the US-led anti-terrorism campaign, with divisions apparent over Washington's tactics in pursuing war against Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

But the Chinese hosts found unanimous approval for a breathtaking fireworks display along Shanghai's Huangpu River staged Saturday night after a banquet at the Oriental Riverside Hotel.

The Taiwanese seat at the dinner, however, was conspicuously empty.

Only 20 of the 21 Apec leaders turned out to attend a day-long retreat after the Taiwanese delegation stormed out of Apec Saturday, following rival China's refusal to allow their chosen delegate, a former vice president, to attend the summit. *With a report from AFP*

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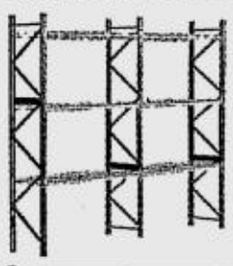

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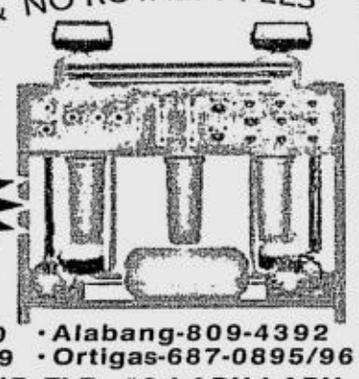

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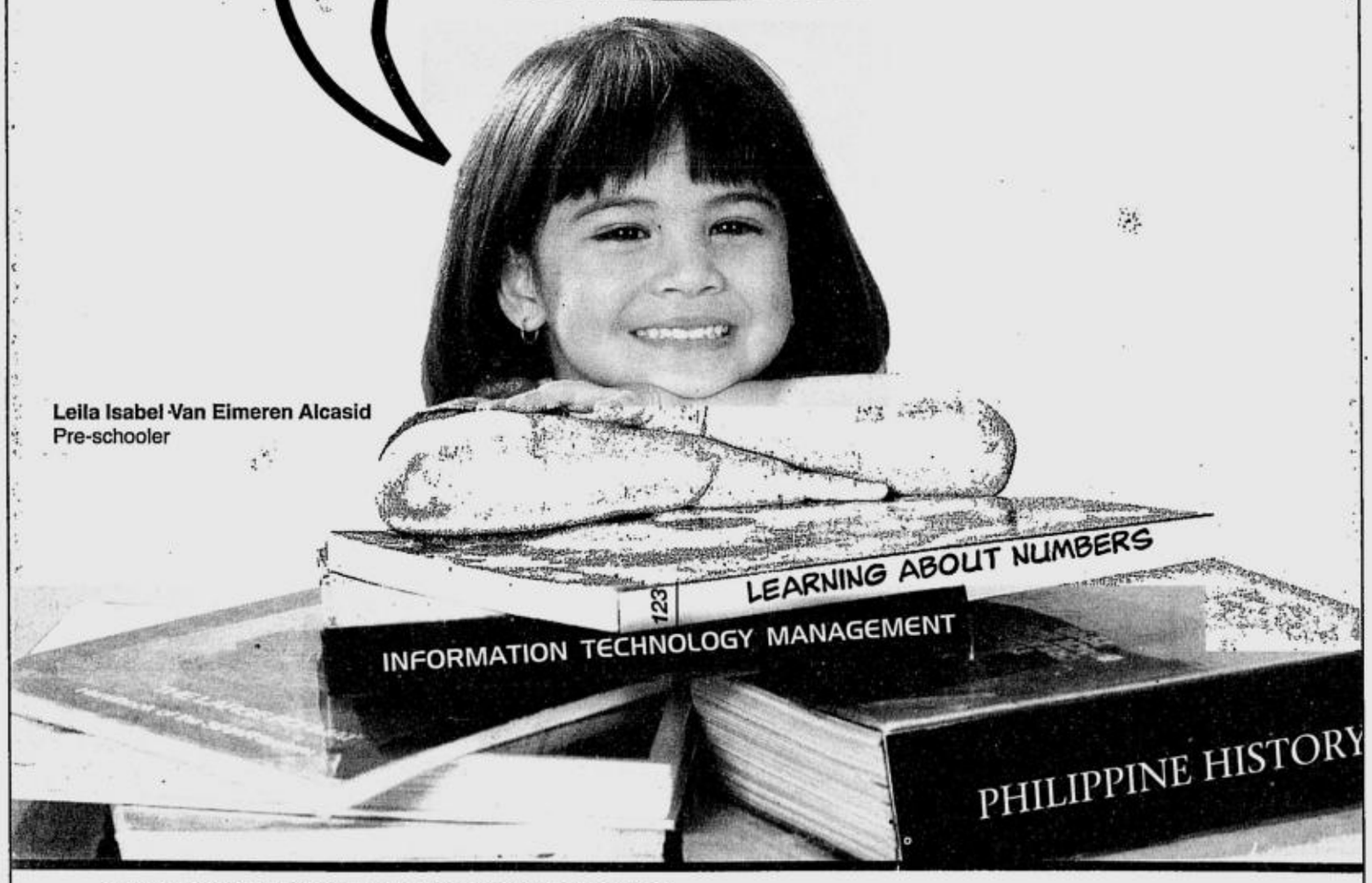

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TABLAS DIESEL POWER PLANT Tablas, Odiongan, Romblon [500 drums waste oil (drum included in the sale)]	**Lube oil - P0.45/LTR.** **Drum - P80.00/pc.**

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on November 12, 2001 at the NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Building, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Bidding Committee at the above address or call tel. no. 921-3190. **Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 1:00 PM on November 9, 2001.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SPUG-MMSS-01-026

Interested suppliers are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Strategic Power Utilities Group, National Power Corporation, Training Center Building, BIR Road corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

VENUE: 2F TRAINING CENTER BUILDING, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY
RE-BIDDING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

SCHED	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
PB001206-PDGP0428 (PB2)	SPARE PARTS FOR CKD
PB010711-PDAM0647 (PB2)	NOZZLE TIP (CKD)
PB010912-PDSI0718 (PB2)	GM ENGINE PARTS
DN010831-PSDI0732 (PB)	PERKINS

Only accredited suppliers/haulers/brokers can participate in the bidding. All bids shall be secured with a bid bond in the amount equivalent to five (5%) percent of the total bid. The bid security shall be in the form of cash bonds, manager's check, cashier's checks or surety bond issued by GSIS. As for non-NPC accredited suppliers, application forms for accreditation will be issued at Materials Management Department, National Power Corporation corner Quezon Avenue and BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, between 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished bid forms addressed to the Manager, Administrative Services Division, Strategic Power Utilities Group (SPUG) before the time and date of the scheduled bidding. **ALL ITEMS MUST BE DELIVERED AT SITE.**

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **OCTOBER 24, 2001** upon payment of P50 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., company authorization and **Original Certificate of Accreditation** issued by NPC—H.O./MMRC/SLRC/NLRC/MRC/VRC and upon presentation of **Certificate of Outstanding Performance** from the Region. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between **8:00 - 11:00 a.m. only** at the above mentioned address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI – Oct. 22, 2001)

KL talks 'suspended'

KUALA LUMPUR—Peace negotiations between the Philippine government and Muslim rebels were "suspended" at the weekend after hitting a snag, a rebel spokesperson said Sunday.

"We cannot agree on certain points. We will go back for consultation with our principals in the Philippines," said Murad Ebrahim, military affairs vice chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Murad, who headed an 18-member MILF delegation to the six-day talks in Malaysia, said the two parties disagreed on how to use the money that would be allocated for development projects in conflict-affected areas.

The government insisted that it should manage the projects in poverty-stricken Mindanao, while the rebels said they should be managed by the MILF.

"Although we have not agreed on these issues I feel that one accomplishment of these talks was the signing on Thursday" of an agreement on how to conduct and implement a ceasefire agreed in August, Murad said.

No date had been set for the next round of talks. "We will liase after consultations with our principals," he said.

"We are not yet touching on political issues, just the ceasefire and economic development. After all that is settled, we are going forward for a political solution to the problem," Murad said earlier.

The talks are aimed at ending the MILF's 23-year fight to set up an independent Islamic state in the South.

Jesus Dureza, who headed the government's 17-member delegation, earlier hailed Thursday's signing of a ceasefire manual as a "big step forward" in the peace talks.

"So far we've accomplished what we've wanted to do. The manual is the main objective we've had from the start," he said.

"The manual is very important, because if there are lapses in the ceasefire, we cannot move forward with peace talks."

Dureza denied the MILF's allegations that the government had ignored the ceasefire agreement resulting in fighting last month which killed 36 MILF members and eight soldiers.

"On their side they think we have gone against the ceasefire, but that is not true. If specific cases and events are brought to our official attention, we are ready to look at them and see if there were violations," he said.

Dureza, who was due to return to Manila Sunday, said no deadline had been set for signing a comprehensive peace treaty as discussions were a "long and tedious process." *AFP*

Senate to wrap up Lacson inquiry

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

THE SENATE investigation into the alleged illegal drug links of Sen. Panfilo Lacson will start wrapping up today with the final acceptance of evidence.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, said only "one or two hearings" need to be conducted before the Senate issues its report on Lacson's reported drug ties.

Barbers said one of the remaining hearings would discuss the request of minority leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to "resolve certain procedural matters on the manner of accepting and handling evidence" submitted during an executive session.

"There was an agreement to convene another public hearing not only to discuss Senator Pimentel's request but to finish the illegal drugs aspect of the investigation," Barbers said.

After the illegal drugs probe, the Senate will hear the money-laundering charges against Lacson.

A former national police chief, Lacson has also been accused of involvement in kidnap-for-ransom cases and the summary execution of crime suspects.

Malacañang calls Rivero a mercenary

BY CARLITO PABLO

ROBERT Rivero, the would-be whistleblower in the alleged Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds scam, was about to be charged with corruption and has "apparently become a mercenary tool of the opposition" in order to save himself.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said this was clearly "the bottom line of this entire brouhaha."

The opposition flank in the Senate has launched a probe into the allegations by Rivero, a former PCSO consultant, that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had diverted P250 million in PCSO funds into the election campaign of four administration senatorial candidates.

The PCSO has reportedly agreed to submit to the Senate a list of "all donations and contributions" it made from June 2000 to June 2001, including those made during the May elections.

This was the assurance given by PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" Singson-de Leon to Sen. Edgardo Angara who heads the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms which is conducting the investigation.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has said, however, that Rivero had failed to present evidence to prove his allegations at the first hearing conducted by the Angara committee last Friday.

Commenting on Pimentel's assessment of Rivero's performance at the Senate hearing, Tiglao said: "I've always admired Senator Pimentel's objectivity and integrity."

Also yesterday, Arroyo's spokesperson Patricia Bunye said Pimentel's statements were a sign that the senator "was transcending political considerations and respecting the rule of law."

"Rivero has clearly been used as a pawn by some members of the opposition and his statements deserve no further attention," Bunye said in a statement.

In previous interviews, Tiglao said Rivero had been sacked from the PCSO after certain media executives complained that he was allegedly asking for grease money to facilitate PCSO payments of media advertising contracts.

The Angara committee went through with the hearing last Friday despite a boycott by administration senators who questioned the committee's jurisdiction on the issue.

Opposition senators are reportedly bent on continuing with the inquiry even though Congress is set to go on recess on Oct. 26.

The earliest that another hearing can be scheduled would be on Nov. 12.

No hearing has been set this week as Angara is leaving on an official trip to the United States.

Arroyo had been invited to appear at last Friday's hearing but could not do so as he had to accompany President Macapagal-Arroyo to Shanghai for the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Tiglao said he was not sure if Arroyo would be attending the next hearing.

An invitation to appear before the Senate can be turned down by anyone, including the First Gentleman, he said.

"If there's a subpoena, his lawyer will determine if he would recognize the subpoena," Tiglao said.

Bunye earlier said Arroyo was questioning the authority of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments to conduct the inquiry. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

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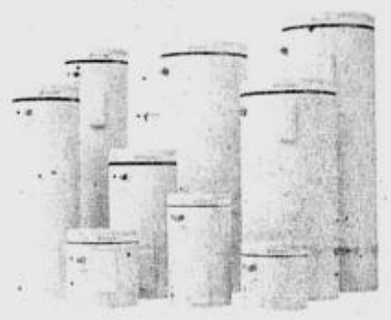

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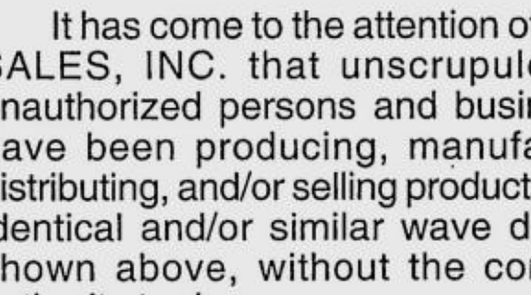

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Erap 'nervous but bored,' says lawyer

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

"NERVOUS but bored."

This was how deposed President Joseph Estrada described his present state in confinement.

Estrada admitted in a phone interview yesterday that he was "very nervous" waiting for the Supreme Court's decision on his lawyers' bid to get him off the hook by having the plunder law declared unconstitutional.

The jailed leader admitted his anxiety has grown in the past days, especially after "rumors reached me of pressure being exerted by Malacañang to have the high court rule against me." He declined to elaborate.

Raymond Fortun, one of Estrada's defense lawyers, observed that his client has been very nervous lately—"*kabadung-kabado*"—about the coming court decision.

Fortun said the high tribunal is expected to vote on the matter this week and issue its decision before the end of the month.

If Estrada wins the constitutionality issue, he would not only score a legal and political victory—more importantly he would get a pass out of jail.

Dropping the plunder charge against Estrada would reduce the cases he is facing to the bailable offenses of perjury and illegal use of alias.

In a lighter mood, Estrada whined about his "boring" days in detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

This was because his cable TV service has dropped his favorite channels, ESPN and Star Sports, he complained.

"Watching TV is how I get by here, you know, aside from reading," said Estrada, a known avid fan of NBA basketball on ESPN.

GMA certain to reappoint bypassed men

BY CARLITO PABLO AND ARMAND NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is certain to reappoint any Cabinet appointee bypassed by the Commission on Appointments, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Three Cabinet secretaries—Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon—are having a difficult time of it at the CA and are certain to be bypassed as the commission will have little time to act on their appointments before Congress goes on recess on Oct. 26.

In Shanghai, where she is attending the annual Leaders' Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Ms Macapagal said she may well need God's help in getting some of her Cabinet appointments through the CA even as she basked in the praise heaped by international businessmen on her "dream team."

"I will just have to pray to God," Ms Macapagal said when asked what she would do to get her people through the CA opposition wringer.

"In the CA, you really go through some setback," she said.

But she said she was consoled by favorable comments from US business executives who said they found her Cabinet members to be the best in their fields.

The President said the businessmen had noted that seven of her Cabinet members were Harvard alumni and two were graduates of the Wharton School of Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. Harvard and UPenn are in the top rung of US universities.

Apart from Camacho, the other Harvard alumni in the Cabinet are Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Presidential Chief of Staff Renato Corona.

The Wharton graduates are Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas.

The President nevertheless expressed her appreciation for the Senate minority which she said has supported her legislative initiatives such as the Power Reform Law and the Anti-money Laundering Law which Congress passed in record time.

Tiglao said that should the CA decide to bypass the appointments of Camacho, Reyes and Gordon, "the President will certainly be re-appointing them."

He said he was not aware of reports that the President had lobbied for the speedy confirmation of Camacho before she left for Shanghai.

But he noted that if the President did indeed lobby for Camacho, it would be because the position of finance secretary is "a crucial post."

"The finance secretary will be talking to financial institutions, he will be signing contracts in behalf of the government," he said.

JDV backs bill setting time limits for cash advances

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has endorsed a House bill making failure by public officials and employees to liquidate cash advances within the period allowed by existing laws and regulations as "prima facie act of malversation."

"We should ensure the most productive use of available resources because of the global economic slowdown," De Venecia said in a statement.

The Speaker said House Bill 2566 which Rep. Jesli Lapus of Tarlac filed recently, would "help strengthen transparency and accountability in government, especially in the utilization of public funds."

Lapus said government agencies "must clear their books of long-standing or possible fictitious accounts." He requested the Commission on Audit to make available "aging statistics" to determine the periods within which the particular cash advances were made, including the amounts and names of government agencies and officials and employees.

Lapus' bill seeks to correct the practice of government officials and employees of disregarding the requirement, under existing laws and regulations, of prompt liquidation of cash advances granted them in pursuit of official business.

The measure also seeks to amend Article 217 of the Revised Penal Code making failure to liquidate cash advances within the period provided by existing laws "a prima facie proof of malversation."

Lapus also filed House Resolution 127 directing the concerned House committee to investigate, in aid of legislation, the reported P34-billion cash advances by public officials and employees and another P250 billion of unliquidated obligations and payables by national government agencies as of Dec. 31, 2000.

DENR exec to fight Alvarez before CA

AN ENVIRONMENT official being probed for allegedly illegally importing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) has moved to block the confirmation of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez at the Commission on Appointments.

"He violated my rights and trumped up the charges against me," said Peter Abaya who said he would file a motion today with the CA.

Last July, Alvarez ordered Abaya relieved of his position as director of the Environmental Management Bureau.

The environment secretary also ordered the filing of administrative charges against Abaya as well as an investigation into his alleged involvement in the controversial ODS importation.

Abaya has questioned why he was immediately charged with grave misconduct for a mere "mathematical discrepancy," and speculated whether it was because the penalty for this was dismissal.

Abaya, an appointee of jailed ex-President Joseph. Estrada, was slapped with charges of grave misconduct on Sept. 6, a day before he was to have been promoted to assistant secretary.

"I'm just doing my job," said Alvarez in his defense, stressing that the investigation of Abaya was based on "prima facie" evidence.

"If you're perceived to have violated some laws, then naturally you have to be investigated," he said.

Alvarez is to appear next month for his confirmation hearings before the Commission on Appointments.

Some congressmen-members of the CA are expected to close ranks behind the young Abaya, a son of their congressional colleague, Cavite Rep. Plaridel Abaya.

Alvarez does not believe the Abaya case would affect his confirmation.

"I've fought bigger foes before," he said, recalling how he fought the dictatorial regime of Ferdinand Marcos and initiated the impeachment proceedings against Estrada.

Abaya, a US-trained environmental engineer, said that he was bringing his case to the CA because he does expect to get a "fair trial" at the DENR.

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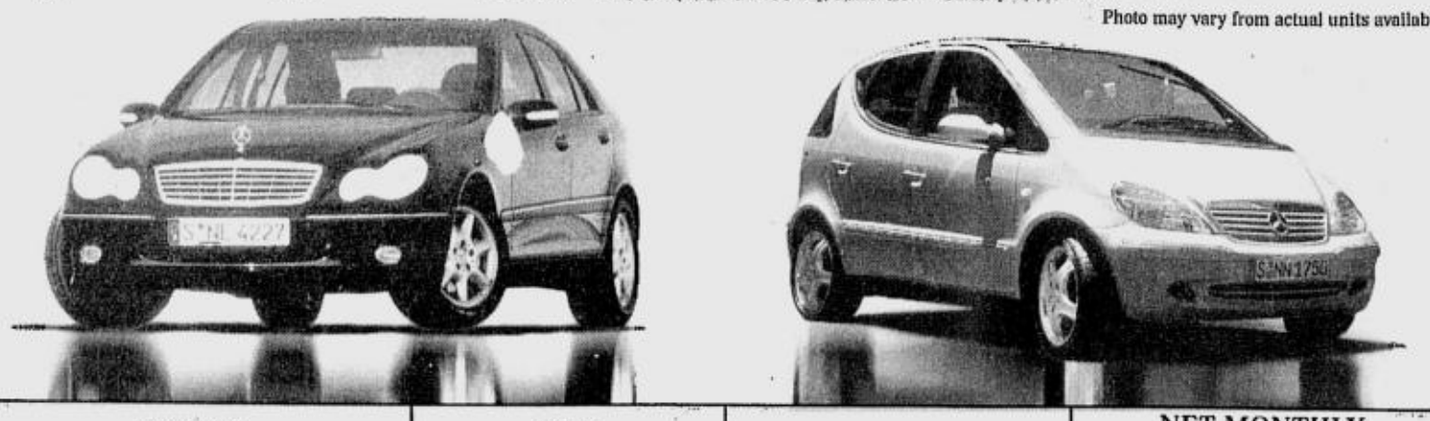

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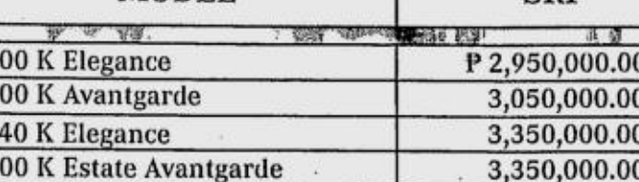

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7 minors on death row, say bishops

SEVEN minors are among some 1,020 convicts languishing on death row, influential Roman Catholic bishops said yesterday as they blasted President Macapagal-Arroyo for lifting a moratorium on executions.

Sentencing minors under 18 years old to death demonstrates "grave ignorance of the law," said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' episcopal commission which helps convicts cope with prison life.

The commission said it was particularly concerned about a 17-year-old girl convicted of kidnapping whose death sentence has been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

It said lower court judges could be prosecuted for sending the minors to death row, which is against the law.

CBCP spokesperson Monsignor Pedro Quitorio blasted Ms Macapagal for "flip-flopping" over the death penalty, which she opposed when she became president in January.

But citing a rash of kidnappings, Ms Macapagal last week said she was lifting the moratorium on capital punishment and vowed to work for the immediate execution of 90 convicted kidnappers on death row.

Quitorio said Ms Macapagal's change of stance over the death penalty was a tacit admission that her government was losing the war against criminals.

"And therefore, the only answer is the death penalty," he said.

"We are surprised at this flip-flopping. She has made clear her stand before and now she says something different," he said. "Here comes a flip-flopping president."

Ms Macapagal had defended her decision, saying that she needed to "strike fear" in the hearts of criminals, whose attacks officials say have embarrassed her government and scared away potential investors. *AFP*

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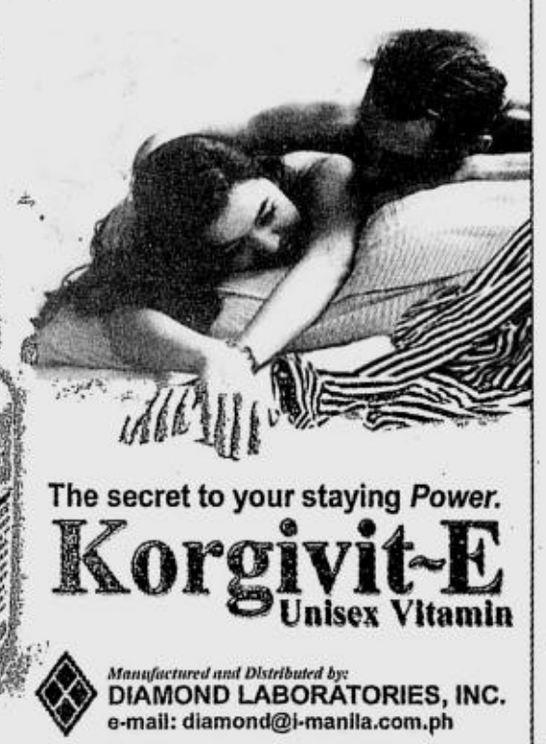

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Anthrax journalism

ON THE POPULAR WebMD website, the disease of the day is defined succinctly: "Anthrax is an infectious often fatal disease associated with animal contact (mostly farm animals) and which, today, is rarely seen in the United States but still exists in Africa, Asia and the Middle East."

How about anthrax journalism? There is still no listing yet for this form of rabid reporting, but based on what we have seen on local television news, we can try our hand at a definition: it is "a highly contagious kind of coverage of a subject matter that is suddenly news in the United States but a long-ignored health issue in Africa, Asia and the Middle East; often, the coverage comes with unpleasant side effects."

EDITORIALS

It is easy to understand local media's fascination with the anthrax scare, exemplified by the extensive coverage GMA News has devoted to the topic. Coming right on the heels of the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes, the anthrax issue has leaped forward to become the story of the day because of two mutually reinforcing reasons: it is a new form of terrorism, and it has directly affected members of the media. The first victims or intended victims in the United States, for example, were editors at a tabloid, producers at two television networks and a reporter at the New York Times.

But the disease itself is not new to the Philippines. "It is, in fact, called the poor farmers' disease because the bacteria usually come from farm animals like carabaos," Dr. Jojo Carabeo of the Health Alliance for Democracy has said. Many of our farmers regard anthrax as ordinary skin disease, he added.

As a bioterrorist threat, anthrax has definitely not reached the country's shores, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit told the nation last week. The chances of getting it are minuscule. "It's just like the lotto," he assured an anxious, gambling-prone public in the kind of language they understand.

But the spores of anxiety remain in the air, broadcast by TV news anchors and reporters who really ought to know better. The flap over the solicitation letter from The Economist, for example, shows a terrible lapse of judgment on their part. That magazine has long been celebrated not only for its superior journalism but also its dryly humorous brand of marketing. Granted, there are people who may not appreciate the knowing irony at work in solicitation letters where one's name is in a list which includes those of George W. Bush, Nelson Mandela and Bill Gates. But for anchors and reporters to stoke the fire over someone's ignorance or mistaken apprehension of the facts is to choose hype over responsible reporting.

As it is, we already have a real, painful side effect to worry about: The artificial hysteria could trigger an increase in the cost of antibiotics used to treat the affliction, thus making the cure even more unaffordable to the very people who are prone to it.

Cable consumerism

THE PULLOUT by Star TV of several of its cable channels—including the popular ESPN, National Geographic, Star Sports, Channel [V] and Viva Cinema—from three leading cable operators is a black eye for Philippine cable, once one of the most vibrant in Asia. The reason, as Star announced in half-page ads, is the "non-payment of millions of dollars of fees."

Of course, Home Cable, Sky Cable and Pilipino Cable have given their subscribers—reaching hundreds of thousands of households—occasional news advisories, saying negotiations with Star are ongoing. But these advisories have been slipshod at best; they have all the care and deliberation of an afterthought. One particularly galling phrase assures cable subscribers, who pay several hundred pesos every month for the privilege of watching live international sports shows and first-run movies, that the cable operators are doing their best "to protect their (consumers') interest."

The very idea of a cable service is access to what the rest of the world is watching; it is a concept often caricatured as "500 channels." For that access to be viable both as a service and as a business, however, certain channels must be carried. Many of the channels provided by Star fall in this category. To truly protect the consumers' interest, therefore, cable operators must carry them, and other channels their subscribers expect. To do otherwise is a breach of contract.

How do you solve a problem like Mike?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo's problems with his *inaanak* and protégé, Robert Rivero, are not yet over but a new one is about to hit him. Another protégé, friend, crony—take your pick—is dropping Mike's name to get appointed to a high position in the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

A former basketball player and former official in Bingo Filipino under Erap crony and BW Resources manipulator Dante Tan, this guy is now claiming to be close to Mike and angling for a position in the money-rich Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. But since the PCSO is under attack, he has turned his sights on the even richer Pagcor. He is dropping Mike's name all over the place to be appointed to the position of an official who is abroad and can't protect his back. The poor man had to cut his two-week official trip to rush back home to save his job.

Of course the job-stealer could be just an aggressive name-dropper, but because most of the top officials of Pagcor are reputed to be Mike protégés, his claim attains credibility. We will know if he is an impostor or a genuine protégé by what happens next. If he gets appointed, that means he is not kidding and Mike is bent on giving his friends juicy positions in cash-heavy government agencies. Probably with an eye on 2004. If he is dropped like a hot potato, that means he is just a cheap name-dropper—or that Uncle Mike is crying "uncle."

* * *

All new administrations are bedeviled by name-droppers who swarm like vultures on a rotting carcass, not to say relatives who take advantage of the accident of being relatives of the President. President Magsaysay solved this by issuing an order banning all his relatives from having to do anything with the government. President Estrada aped that directive but it was only make-believe, as it was with most of Erap's showbiz life. In reality, his relatives and friends feasted on public funds like it was one big party. President Marcos issued an order penalizing name-droppers. Not one name-dropper was penalized but name-dropping became a hazardous pastime. But Marcos' in-laws, the Romualdezes, and his cronies didn't have to drop names. They were the names—names that became synonymous with "vultures" and "crocodiles," which is a big injustice to these animals.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should also issue a directive against name-droppers, especially because so many opportunists are dropping the name of her ever-loving husband. Mike should also not tolerate people using his name in vain—for opportunistic purposes.

* * *

But what do you do if the problem is your own spouse, like Mike is to Gloria? Several Philippine presidents lost the presidency because of their spouses and relatives, the prime example being Marcos. Imeldific was to him a double-edged sword: she won votes for him (like Evita did for Peron), but her greed, vanity and luxury-loving ways, and the opportunism of her relatives, became his Achilles' heel.

Presidents Quirino and Macapagal had their brothers who became involved in scandals. President Garcia had his executive secretary, Juan Pajo. President Aquino had her own opportunistic *kamaganaks*. President Estrada had not only his *kamaganaks* but also his *queridas* and *barkada*. And President Macapagal has Mike.

I feel very sorry for Mike but his problems are largely self-inflicted. He should have modeled himself after British First Gentleman Dennis Thatcher, instead of after flamboyant Imelda. All during the terms of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the first gentleman kept himself in the background. The British people hardly knew he existed. He did not attract attention and so he was not linked to any scandal.

First Gentleman Mike, on the other hand, seems to be jealous of all the attention his wife is getting. She is in the newspapers, television and radio every day. Why her alone when I, Mike, am the head of the family? So he makes it a point to be seen and be photographed with her. He accompanies her on official functions where he is not needed. He risks contempt of the Senate in order to be with her at the Apec summit in Shanghai. How can he bear to miss the opportunity to be photographed, for posterity, with the world's leaders?

Worse, he even has his own television and radio shows. *At* every day *pa*!

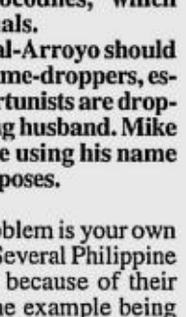
But Mike can't be a good television or radio show host, even if he is the First Gentleman. He doesn't look well on TV. Grossly overweight, he looks unhealthy. He doesn't sound well, either. He has a high-pitched squeaky voice that grates on the ear and doesn't go well with his big bulk. If Mike and Gloria were having a conversation inside a room and you couldn't see them but only hear their voices, you would mistake one for the other. Mike has a high feminine voice while Gloria has a low masculine voice. Not their fault, but what I'm trying to say is that Mike should stay away from TV and radio if he knows what's good for him. Television, especially, is a very cruel medium that is not for just anybody.

His public relations handlers should have told him that, but obviously they were just sycophants who said "yes, sir, very good, sir" when Mike expressed a desire to be a media personality. They can't tell the emperor when he has no clothes. Good PR handlers tell their bosses what's good and what's bad for them. Obviously, the First Couple doesn't have those.

So, dear Mike, this is friendly advice, don't take it wrong: You are only the President's husband, not the President. Share her bed, but not her office. Be content with your blessings, but don't lust for more. Don't make life harder than it already is for the President. And for you, too. That's the way to be happy.

Stars and 'aswangs'

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S a phenomenon in this country that has fascinated psychologists and sociologists for a long time. Which is that in times of great stress and anxiety—during times of disasters, bad harvests and war—Filipinos tend to spot *aswangs* in many parts of the country. The tabloids have a field day reporting (or inventing) it, and even TV lures viewers to it. *Aswang* sightings were a staple of Noli de Castro's "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" in the past.

It doesn't really matter that no one has ever caught an *aswang* or given proof of its existence. Folklore thrives without explanation. But the residents of far-flung villages as well as dimly lit slums have been known to arm themselves at night with bolos and various religious articles to deal with the predators. The unnatural preoccupation normally dies a natural death after a week or so.

There is a new and subtler variation of this phenomenon. That is the phenomenon of the terrorist, or the threat that the terrorist poses. We saw it first a couple of weeks ago in the scare that an apparent epidemic of flu in certain schools threw into Metro Manila residents. The rumor that it might have been the product of biological warfare spread faster than any airborne virus that might have been unleashed by germ bomb, courtesy of a rapidly transmitting carrier called the cellular phone. Text messages flew thick and fast that exclusive schools had been specifically targeted for the attack, an idea many parents apparently bought. The Department of Health's efforts to disabuse the public of the belief were met with cynicism and diatribe.

My own kid, quite incidentally caught the virus. But I only had to see the garbage that had been festering in the neighborhood, the rats that had been darting around in our hallways, and the black vomit billowing from the exhaust pipes of buses in Edsa on my kid's way to school to realize that biological terrorists were the least of my worries.

We saw the phenomenon again only last week in the Anthrax scare that for some reason had Filipinos in fear and trembling as much as Americans. For days, many of us were opening our mail gingerly for fear it might be laced with caustic powder. Mail containing American magazines in particular, which was thought to be a prime candidate for Anthrax poisoning. As with fashion, we seemed determined not to lag behind in this latest—quite literally—craze. While at this, I heard a very funny joke, which is that there has been an epidemic of Anthrax poisoning of late among Post Office clerks. Go figure.

On the surface, of course, there seems little to link *aswangs* with terrorists. The first hovers nebulously on the plane of the supernatural while the second stands squarely on terra firma. The first is totally unreal while the second has strong vestiges of reality. But a moment's reflection will show that is not so at all. Why terrorists would bother to poison Filipinos when they have better things to do, or better targets to aim at, must show how utterly unreal the paranoia is. Indeed, why terrorists would bother to murder Filipinos when Filipinos do not lack for things, like toxic air and even more toxic cops, to do it more efficiently and on a grander scale must show how utterly supernatural the paranoia is.

It is not hard to see why we see *aswangs* during fearful and anxious times. It gives us something to embody all our fears and anxieties, it gives us something to fight against. It gives us a face of evil, come gratuitously from God knows where, the destruction of which, with God's grace, will restore light to our world. Fears and anxieties are not easy to fight, they have no face, they are not found in nesting places at night. They reduce us to frustration and immobility. Monsters, for all their supernatural attributes, are so much easier to fight, they have a face, however frightening, and they galvanize us to action.

It's the same thing with terrorists. Like *aswangs*, they are unnaturally, if not supernaturally, evil. They do not have to be explained, they wreak the evil that they do because they are the evil that they are. Like *aswangs*, they embody all our fears and anxieties, giving a face to all that is vague and nebulous, and thereby offering us something to fight against. Though monstrous and frightening, they are easier to fight against than fears and anxieties, which have no face and are not pinned down, or impaled with stakes, or bombed to kingdom come. Fighting terrorists releases us from inaction, and gives us to think that after we win this war everything will be all right.

It is a delusion of course. Destroying *aswangs*—if indeed anyone has done that—has not enabled impoverished villagers and slum dwellers to prevent their children from dying of famine, disease and ignorance. Destroying terrorists—if indeed anyone can do that by the ways of terrorism—will not enable us to prevent a nation from dying with bad government, bad cops and bad attitudes. At the end of the day, that is what we will have to face. At the end of the day, that is where our soaring flights of anti-terrorist rhetoric, in lieu of stealth planes, will come crashing down to.

It is not in our stars, or in *aswangs*, or in terrorists, that we are underlings. It is in ourselves. But such is life that it is always easier to see the invisible rather than the visible. It is always easier to deal with the supernatural rather than the natural. It is always easier to believe the illusion than the reality.

* * *

On a happier note, it's Beatles Night once again at the 70s Bistro. I don't know how many times they've done it, but who cares? Like *aswangs*, the Beatles are *walang kamatayan*. The guys couldn't do the gig on the traditional Oct. 8, which is John Lennon's birthday, but the 22nd isn't a bad substitute. It's Jose Miguel de Quiros' birthday. He's the kid who caught the virus, in more ways than one.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Lessons from an enduring love story

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WITH MANY of us satiated beyond healthy levels by the terroristic attacks on the United States and the war in Afghanistan, I thought that we all could use a break—by reading a love story that has endured for 60 years, especially since we just celebrated Family Week. A good friend, Public Works Undersecretary Mabini "EQ" Pablo, wrote the following piece as a son's tribute to his parents who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary late last month. But EQ Pablo's piece, which was read at that celebration, is actually also the story of a Filipino clan, among many others in this great nation of ours. Enjoy his piece as I did, and learn its lessons:

When we began preparing for this 60th anniversary celebration for Tatay and Nanay (lawyer Rizalino Pablo and the former Bituen Fonacier), one of the things we thought of was to have a slide presentation showing some of Nanay's favorite photographs from as early as 1935. Nanay is, after all, a master documentor, having maintained countless albums of photos and memorabilia of family and friends. Every five years she would force us all to dress up in formal attire, go to a studio and have our family photo taken. For tonight we plowed through mountains of Nanay's photographs, but putting those photos together has made us realize that they were not just random snapshots. Those photos had memories to share and stories to pass. Most importantly, they had lessons waiting to be told which we want to share with you. We call them "Lessons from Tatay and Nanay."

While all of you know that Tatay and Nanay were married on this very day 60 years ago, few know that Tatay had to wait for Nanay for so long to agree to marry him. He first saw her when she was only 13 years old, running around the Tondo Cathedral during the feast of the Sto. Niño in 1934. It actually took Tatay a full four years, the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, to finally get Nanay out on a date. That "intimate" first date took place on Dec. 22, 1938 at the Metropolitan Theater, with nine other cousins chaperoning them! Tatay had to pay for all their entrance fees, a whopping 10 centavos each.

After that first date, Tatay sent at least one love letter to Nanay every single day, relentlessly asking her to marry him. She refused just as often. Finally, in sheer desperation, he resorted to "making *bola*": he declared that if she refused to marry him, he would leave Manila and take up his law practice in faraway Mindanao, that he would never be seen again. It worked.

Moral of the story No. 1: Patience pays off. And sometimes, so does a bit of show biz and drama.

While most young families immediately start a home for themselves, Tatay and Nanay have always had another approach to nurturing their family. Their doors and their hearts have always been open to all people who needed them. Their first home was a little apartment in Sta. Cruz, Manila, which was also home to Tatay's younger brothers and sisters. Before their fifth anniversary, they had their first three children: Tompay (Tagumpay Pablo); Lulu (DSWD Undersecretary Lualhati Pablo); and Bubut (Buhay Pablo-Hernandez). Before their 10th anniversary, Onyo (Rizalino Pablo Jr.) and I were born. By then we were living in a house in Luna close to Nanay's parents, Lolo Santiago "Ago" Fonacier and Lola Carmen "Puti" Fonacier. When my kid sister, Little Bi (Bituen Pablo-Shimada) was born and the family had moved to the compound in Pasay City, it became, and still is, open to virtually anyone who needed Tatay's and Nanay's assistance, even non-relatives and strangers.

Moral of the story No. 2: Family ties are not always biological. For most of us, "family" means our children and our parents, siblings and blood relatives, but for Tatay and Nanay, it has always referred to anyone whom the Lord sent their way—friends and even acquaintances and virtual strangers who need their love and help.

The six of us brothers and sisters were lucky to grow up in a family that gave us a sense of stability. Every weekend, Tatay and Nanay would take us to the Luneta, followed by lunch at the Aristocrat Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. Sometimes we would go to Tagaytay...to the Picnic Grove, not the Highlands. Every PTA meeting and school activity, Tatay and Nanay were there. We didn't grow up in a house that was flashy, but it was filled with books and had a lot of space for get-togethers.

Moral of the story No. 3: Parental love is felt most when it is demonstrated in ways that children can understand. And often it takes the simplest forms, like constancy, companionship, presence or trips even just to the Luneta.

Thanks to our grounding, none of us kids ever got into any serious trouble, even though we were growing up with our own quirks. Kuya became car-crazy. Lulu became a party animal. Little Bi was the bookworm who suddenly developed itchy feet and the urge to travel the world. Because we had been given a strong foundation at home, we were entrusted with considerable freedom which all of us sometimes tested, but none of us ever abused. When Kuya developed the habit of spending half his waking life in cars, Tatay and Nanay let him be, but they curbed his happy-go-lucky nature by making sure he got a part-time job while still in school. When Little Bi got the irresistible urge to travel by becoming an exchange student in the United States in 1967, they let her go, but surprised her by showing up for her graduation. Raising six children with different personalities and giving room to grow was not easy, but Tatay and Nanay, by God's grace, managed.

When it came to choosing a college degree, we were each allowed to go our own way: business, social work, education, political science, public administration and foreign service. None of us was forced to take up the "sought-after" professions like law or medicine. We were given the privilege of freedom, coupled with parental trust. It must have worked, for we all graduated from the University of the Philippines and three of us went on to complete higher studies.

Moral story No. 4: In raising children, roots for grounding and wings for soaring are equally important.

When the time eventually came for us to have families of our own, we were properly equipped for it. Tompay married Cyn in 1966; Onyo married Emmeline in 1973; Bubut got hitched to Lito in 1975; Little Bi married Moto in 1979, and even I, the most eligible bachelor then, decided to give Clem a break by saying yes to her in 1981. If and when Lulu decides to get married, rest assured that there will be a celebration four times this size. The unusual thing about Tatay and Nanay is that they never cried at any of our weddings; they were always happy. Some say this was because they were so eager for us to leave home finally, but in reality they were thrilled to be gaining additional children. ***(To be continued)***

Understanding the Moros

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

IT would be a gross mistake to regard with pejorative condescension the Moros of Mindanao as a result of current global biases, just as it is certainly naïve to regard all Muslims for that matter as a cut from the same breed of "terrorists," whether Taliban or Abu Sayyaf. That is one of the dangers of the current global war stance by the United States and its allies. That is even on top of a Manila-centric culture which often regards all people from Mindanao as "Muslim" and then express surprise that Basilan is in fact thousands of miles away from, say, Tandag in Surigao del Sur or Malaybalay City in Bukidnon.

It is very essential to regard the Filipino Moros from the historico-cultural perspective. Maranao scholar Nagasura Madale once proffered that an understanding and appreciation of Muslim Filipino culture and history only can anchor a deeper understanding and appreciation of Islam in the Philippines.

Historical biases often remain ingrained even centuries after and continue to hinder whatever attempts at real cultural syncretism. It was a fact that Spanish colonizers came to Mindanao with prejudicial disdain against those who adhered to Islam. Political dominance was then the order of the day for competing colonizers in Europe. Rejection of such by a local people was an affront to colonial pride and patriotic *amor propio*. Thus, most lowland Filipinos who most easily adopted to Christianity were culturated toward the same disdain for Muslim Filipinos.

That the Moros were raiders and marauders is not entirely correct. Slave raiding was not a monopoly of theirs. Other non-Muslim ethnic groups in Mindanao and elsewhere were certainly into slave raiding and trading as well. Some of these were certainly retaliations against Spanish designs for territorial conquests.

But it was in 1752 to 1773 that piracy by Muslim Filipino bands reached incredible intensity. Such piracies, in fact, caused frightful depopulations in northern Mindanao in the vicinities of Butuan and Caraga and on the island of Siargao. In reality, there was an economic motive to it and a very strong one at that. This was the demand for slaves in the slave markets of the Dutch East Indies. The Dutch colonial government in Batavia at that time was tolerating the sale of Filipino slaves, often not just for money but also for arms and ammunitions. Some historians have been somewhat naïve in heaping all the blame upon Muslim Filipinos.

Government programs by the succeeding American colonists only abetted the decline of Moro social institutions. The "Government of the Moro Province" which the Americans established was no government at all but a colonial tool to integrate the Moros into the reigning socio-political culture of the time. Military expeditions were largely punitive, eventually reducing and restricting the indigenous Moro sultanates into religious matters.

It is no wonder that even our current concepts of Moro autonomy is one within the ambit of the preponderant political structure so alien to the Moro culture. No doubt that self-determination has been an age-old problem for the Moros that has eluded appropriate address.

Our continuous insistence on the Moros as a cultural minority is largely the product of imposition by a majority culture. In truth, contemporary Moro society is so highly dispersed into about 13 ethno-linguistic groups, mostly diverse with no social cohesion or regional unity. Another Maranao scholar, Mamitua Saber, once opined that the minimal social interaction was in fact due to the physical isolation of the different Moro ethnic groups even within the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan areas. Socially and religiously, however, the diverse Moro ethnic groups feel they all belong to the *ummah*, the world Islamic community so distinct from all the other world religious communities. Here is where the fraternal bond of all Muslims worldwide deserves our emulation and respect, but has in fact merited meager understanding from the so-called dominant Christian culture.

Is dialogue and co-existence between the Moros and non-Muslim Filipinos possible? From the point of view of religious tolerance alone, it certainly is. The process of understanding is more neutral when viewed from the perspective of Muslim-Christian dialogue. But then, because of centuries of domination, it is the Christian Filipinos that ought to exert more effort toward religious tolerance in order to open the necessary change of their perspectives on the Moros' lifeways. As our Manila-centric history and culture continue to remain largely ignorant on Mindanao, so it is on the Moros.

Pope John Paul II best sums up the way of going beyond the differing anthropologies of Islam and Christianity: "The religiosity of Muslims *deserves respect*. It is impossible not to admire their *fidelity to prayer*. The image of believers in Allah who, without caring for time and place, fall to their knees and immerse themselves in prayer remains a model for all *those who invoke* the true God, in particular for those Christians who, having deserted their magnificent cathedrals, pray only a little or not at all."

Fundamentalist attitudes from either side (since there are also fundamentalist Christians, just as there are fundamentalist Muslims) may strain attempts at reciprocal contacts. Nevertheless, dialogue and cooperation remains a distinct possibility. What we who are in the so-called "majority" sorely lack is simple charity toward a denigrated brethren.

Assalam Allaikum!

Antonio J. Montalvan II is a Mindanao anthropologist and ethnohistorian.

* * *

Comments may be sent to monta@sni.ph

Teach the children well

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

MATHEMATICIANS staged their own version of Woodstock over this past weekend at Rasco's Woodland, a nature park in Guimbal, Iloilo, where, I, a secret agent, civilian physicist-cum-observer, attended the First Biennial Conference of the Philippine Council of Mathematics Teacher Educators (MathTed). The event brought together some 270 of our best mathematics teachers from every region of the archipelago, including many of the leading lights in the field, to tackle the expansive topic of curricular issues and new technologies in Philippine education. Host Western Visayas University was represented by Dr. Lourdes C. Abañador and Editha Y. Sillorequez.

The math teachers gathered together for a mental feast, among the entrees of which were some combinatorial geometry (courtesy of a distinguished foreign guest speaker, Prof. Jorge Urrutia, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico); beliefs about technology in education (Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., Ateneo de Manila and Dr. Ninette de las Peñas); achievements in training math teachers (Dr. Auxcencia A. Limjap, De La Salle University); and the enlightening, hugely entertaining, Milagros D. Ibe of Miriam College, explaining the Philippines' dismal showing in standard international math tests, (where we're dead last or close to it).

Because of these poor results in international testing, there has apparently been an ongoing debate within the education department and the academic community in general, about the efficacy of the present curriculum system, which addresses what the students in our schools ought to be learning and the tricky question of when and how the body of information is taught to them.

Major changes are afoot in the way that Filipino students will learn the all-important subjects of mathematics and the natural sciences. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is moving away from the current "integrated spiral" method, in which students are exposed to a wide range of facts, figures and formulae, dished out simultaneously from several different scientific disciplines, all mixed up together, sometimes in bewildering juxtapositions. Even rank and file teachers refer to the spiral concept as "*katol*," all smoke, but no upward progress for the students. Now kids will learn discreet subjects like biology, chemistry, physics, geology, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, etc., along the traditional, more predictable path toward technical competence in these subjects. I hope this does not prove the adage that today's fad is tomorrow's orphan. Secretary Raul Roco can break the cycle of ineffective math and science teaching with the determined effort to "go back to basics."

Most of the participants seemed to sense the importance of the coming sea change in the curriculum and teaching method of the DECS. It impacts all of these teachers directly because their textbooks, lesson plans and the whole sequencing of subjects for the entire studentry may have to be reorganized and overhauled, from elementary to high schools.

Spending a weekend with the tribe of mathematicians might seem like a strange idea to you, but it can be a refreshing experience. Mathematicians are the purest scientists, exponents of logic, paragons of intellectual honesty and rigor. They are the present inheritors of the ancient Pythagorean religion which deified and worshipped numbers. And here in the Philippines, women comprise more than 95 percent of the mathematics teaching profession, judging by the conference attendance.

Over cordial refreshments, I had a chance to theorize on this statistic with MathTed's distinguished guest speaker, the Mexican mathematician Urrutia, whom I befriended to my lasting benefit. (As far as I know he is no relation to our esteemed page editor, Jorge Aruta). Urrutia says that in Mexico the numbers of men and women in the profession are roughly equal, if the *hombrés* don't in fact outnumber the *señoras* and *señoritas* in the Mexican mathematical establishment.

Some who were listening in on our conversation opined that it is the low pay scale for teachers that explains the preponderance of women math teachers. Others thought that women were "more patient," and able to "keep the focus and cerebral attention to detail" that "doing math" requires. Filipino men, on the other hand, were said to prefer "action-oriented professions" like tricycle drivers and construction workers. Still others believe it is the natural instinct to nurture the young which is so strong in Filipino womanhood that is responsible.

Whatever the cause of this curious statistic, which surprises few Filipinos for some reason, I could not help but reflect on the fact that, flawed as this Philippine democracy is, and tragic though our national history of victimhood has been, still women can be chairpersons of mathematics departments and presidents of prestigious universities in this country and to be the conduit by which the stores of human knowledge are transmitted to the next generation in the honorable and revered profession of the school teacher and academician.

For all its faults, this democratic society is still a far superior conception and far more just society already than anything the Taliban, Osama bin Laden, or their supporters and sympathizers in the worldwide industry of resentment and hatred, have in mind for the world.

News agency report on US military advisers

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE OCT. 18 issue of the INQUIRER carried the umbrella runner (that's the headline that appears at the topmost part of the newspaper or above the masthead), "American advisers now here—US Embassy."

The news story under that headline reported that, according to the US Embassy in Manila, the first batch of American anti-terrorism experts had arrived in Mindanao to help our military deal with the Abu Sayyaf problem.

The following day, the front page of the newspaper carried the news that the American military advisers had not yet arrived after all. The highest-ranking US Embassy official denied having made that announcement. The Armed Forces of the Philippines top brass also disclaimed any knowledge about their whereabouts in the country.

Several readers called and wrote to call the attention of this column to the initial wrong report. A reader asked "if your newspaper verifies the truth of important news like that before you publish it, or do you publish anything that will attract attention even if is not yet confirmed?"

I checked the source of the Oct. 18 report on the arrival of US military advisers. It came from Agence France Press (more popularly known in local and international newspaper circles as AFP), a Paris-based international news agency.

AFP is one of three other international news agencies—the others are the London-based Reuters and Associated Press of the United States—with which the INQUIRER has entered into subscription agreements. In consideration of a monthly fee, these agencies regularly send news reports and photos to the INQUIRER which it can use or disregard as it may choose.

Incidentally, there's a new entrant in the highly competitive field of international news and photo gathering in the person of Getty Images. Based in Seattle, USA, Getty is responsible for the touching human interest photos that have graced the INQUIRER's front pages during the past few days.

Reputation

According to the editorial staff, they had no reason to doubt the accuracy of the AFP report when it came out of the agency's transmission facility at around 7:30 p.m., Oct. 17. It cited the US Embassy chargé d'affaires as the authority and source of its report, complete with the information on when the American experts arrived and where they had been stationed (at the Southern Command in Zamboanga City).

Aside from the fact that the AFP is an old hand in news and photo gathering, the agency enjoys a reputation of credibility and accuracy in the information distribution industry. According to the editor in chief, she does not recall any news report fed to the newspaper by the AFP that turned out to be false or inaccurate.

Nonetheless, she got in touch with the newspaper's Mindanao bureau to verify the report. The bureau came back to say it could not confirm the report. It gave the same response when asked to check again. Neither was there a change in its answer when asked to check for the third time.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the editorial desk could not order the bureau to do anything more than undertake the confirmation by getting in touch with whoever was available among their contacts or informants in the military circles.

As the deadline to put the newspaper to bed neared, the editor in chief had to make a judgment call on who to believe—the AFP or the bureau?

After carefully reading the report and analyzing all the underlying incidents, she decided to resolve the doubt in favor of the AFP. The reputation of the agency for accuracy and credibility weighed heavily on her mind.

Evaluation

My initial reaction when I read the AFP report and the press statement of the US Embassy was that the news agency was the victim of a *kuryente* or a false feed from its informant or source.

But when I examined closely the embassy statement, I was intrigued by the statements "The 'first batch of American anti-terrorism experts' has not yet arrived in Mindanao." and "The US Embassy made no such 'announcement' on Oct. 17."

It did not say the experts had arrived in the Philippines; it specified Mindanao. Is it possible the advisers have quietly planed in but have not yet been brought to Mindanao?

True, no formal announcement was made by the embassy on the matter. But, if the AFP report is to be believed, the information was made public by the embassy chargé d'affaires in the course of a television interview. Strictly speaking, no formal announcement had been made. A statement made during an interview is not, in the book of diplomacy, considered an official announcement of a foreign embassy.

Diplomats are known for their skillful use of subtle language in conveying their thoughts or denying reports that are not favorable to their cause. A shouting match between two leaders of government is described as "a frank exchange of ideas." When diplomatic negotiations bog down, it is reported that "the parties have decided to review their respective positions to see where their differences lie."

The point I'm driving at is I am not totally convinced by the embassy statement denying the AFP report. It was couched in diplomatic language that can, at first blush, be interpreted as disclaiming the reported arrival of military advisers without contradicting the statement made by the chargé d'affaires on local television.

I'd rather wait for events on this issue to unfold before I render judgment on whether or not the AFP report is indeed inaccurate.

Reaction

Reacting to last week's column ("Love-hate relationship with PDI columnists"), reader Yna Miranda wrote: "I enjoy the K&T column and look forward to Mondays and Fridays. I am a young mother and I appreciate her insights on motherhood. It is important for me to know how other mothers are raising their children.

"As a woman, I am interested in grooming and look forward to reading about makeup, shampoos, perfumes, etc. My husband and I enjoy eating out and appreciate the amateur critiquing done by Kris. I'm sure a lot of your readers can relate to Kris. No one is holding a shotgun to the readers demanding that they read the column. My advice to Mr. C. Romulo is 'Don't read the column! Hello???"

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, China Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Mockery

"It is a tactical strategy which did not work out. They should not make a mockery of the proceedings of court."

—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on the absence of all of former President Estrada's lawyers on the first day of his trial

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Not very senatorial, again

I REFER to your front-page story, "Blas O, Tessie O grill 'Mama's boy' in hearing at CA." (PDI, 10/18/01)

It is not only amusing but also extremely funny.

Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Blas F. Ople must learn to take these things in stride. I myself did not know the meaning of "*pokpok*" until I read your article. And many others I'm sure do not know either. Now we all know, thanks to Oreta and Ople.

Our senators have insulted our sensibilities many times over and we did not know how to give it back to them. Again, now we know. *Isang* poster *lamang pala sila sa harap ng kanilang bahay.*

As to Leonarda Camacho's letter, I've known Narda for 30 years. Let me tell you this: Nobody fools around with her. She's one of the most committed and concerned persons I've known. She's everybody's "mother hen"—protective of those unjustly treated. That's Narda for you.—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Building, 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**

Wage hike will help workers and boost the economy?

WHEN profit interests are threatened, big businesses suddenly become defenders of micro enterprises, which corporate monopolies have pushed to marginalization in the first place. Business leaders are again mouthing "closures, layoffs and inflation" like a mantra to counter the just demand of workers for a legislated wage hike of P125 across the board, nationwide.

Indeed, not all companies can grant wages that will allow families to live decently. Small enterprises, such as those employing less than 10 workers, pay lower than the minimum wage because of low productivity. In the manufacturing sector, small companies comprise 89.4 percent of the total number of establishments, but they account for only 25.6 percent of the number of workers in the sector.

The concerns of small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) must be addressed by the government through specific provisions in the implementation of a legislated wage hike and various business support such as credit access and tax incentives. They should not be used as a shield for protecting the profits of big local and foreign corporations which loathe increasing wages even if they can well afford it.

Closures, layoffs and inflation are the bane of an import- and dollar-dependent economy; which prioritizes the demands of the global market rather than the domestic needs. Government policies that adhere to globalization worsen the situation of small companies that suffer the impact of cutthroat competition. Local firms are compelled to trim down their production by reducing their workforce or they become mere adjuncts of the production processes of big businesses and transnational corporations.

There has not been a substantial wage increase in recent years but the economy is sluggish, unemployment is at its highest in nine years and prices are skyrocketing. These problems are manifestations of the structure defects of the Philippine economy and are not caused by increased wages.

Lately, businesses are complaining that sales are not picking up despite the advent of the Christmas season. But with today's tight budget, this can only be expected, as families do not even have enough to buy their basic needs. Increasing the purchasing power of the Filipinos through a P125 wage hike will not only benefit workers but will also boost the economy.—**ROSARIO BELLA GUZMAN, executive editor, IBON Foundation Inc., Rm. 303, SCC Bldg., 4427 Old Sta. Mesa, Manila**

LETTERS

Some like Kris, some don't

THIS is in reaction to the response to the reader who criticized Kris Aquino's column. I am no fan of Kris myself but I truly enjoy reading her columns because you can almost hear her talking. She is such an honest and straight-forward writer! She doesn't pretend to be anyone she is not, neither does she pretend to be an authority on something she knows little of. You're right when you said that it's really up to the readers to choose the columns they want to read. While her column may not be for everybody, for those of us who read it every Monday and Friday, we certainly look forward to what she has to say. It's such a pity that she has no published e-mail address because I'm sure it would be fun to exchange views with her.—**STELLA A., ste_11_@hotmail.com**

Picop charges answered by DENR

ALLOW me to clarify news reports where Picop Resources Inc., during a recent House committee hearing, blamed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its reported closure because "restrictions" were reportedly imposed by the DENR and that our officials were involved in illegal poaching in Picop plantations.

Picop's documents submitted to the DENR are undergoing regular processing in accordance with existing forestry rules and regulations.

I had already given clearance for the approval of the plans of Picop subject to general conditions for such permits. Its threat to close shop cannot be attributed to the DENR since Picop was given ample time to submit these requirements.

The firm holds four tenurial instruments or licenses and has the biggest tree-cutting operations in the country, covering an aggregate of 190,012 hectares or two-thirds of the 334,647 total area for active timber license agreements (TLAs) nationwide.

Also, government is bent on converting all TLAs to co-production agreements where both logging firm and the state benefits as mandated by the 1987 Constitution which bans new TLAs.

Big concessionaires are reaping the fruits of this vast resource and government must share from this great wealth of our forests where the income will be used to finance government pro-poor programs for the close to 18 million impoverished forest dwellers, most of whom are indigenous peoples.

Government only gets minimal forest charges and other fees—only 5 percent of the gross income of plantation forests. These alone are insufficient to conserve and protect the forest, much less provide livelihood assistance to forest communities.

On the alleged involvement of DENR men in illegal logging, I have suspended and filed administrative charges against more than 20 officials and employees for various offenses beginning in April when I became environment secretary.

This includes 11 personnel assigned in our DENR office in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur for falsifying permits for two large shipments of illegally cut logs allegedly coming from Picop plantations.

We do not tolerate irregularities in the DENR. We will continue to clean up all residues of grafters, especially in the forestry sector.

Meanwhile, Picop cannot escape its responsibility. As the largest logging concession holder in the history of the nation, we will check on Picop's ability to police its ranks. In fact, we have found out that some of its own security guards and personnel are involved in illegal logging and Picop has even fired some of them.

We are doing our share. We have fired our people and confiscated these logs. These logging firms must do their part because under their TLAs, they are required to police and protect their own areas.

While the DENR encourages investments in the forestry sector, these however are subject to strict compliance with the country's forestry and environmental laws.—**HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

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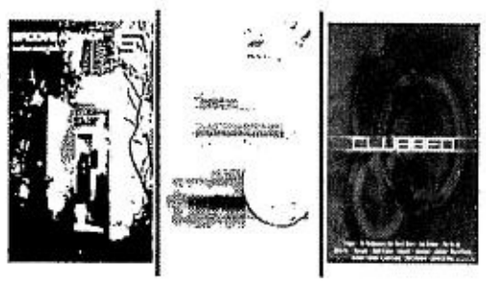

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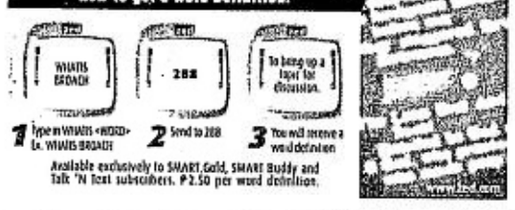

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The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Probers struggle to tag source of anthrax attacks

WASHINGTON—With 45 cases of anthrax infection and exposure suddenly emerging in recent weeks in the United States, investigators were battling to track down the source of what President George W. Bush termed "an act of terror."

The latest incident occurred on Saturday, when Capitol Police confirmed that spores has been discovered on a mail-sorting machine in one of the office buildings serving the US House of Representatives.

The spores, found in the Ford building, have yet to be linked to those found Wednesday in the office of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. Twenty-eight people have already been confirmed exposed to the sometimes-fatal bacteria on Capitol Hill.

"These attacks once again reveal the evil at the heart of terrorism, the evil we must fight," Bush said in a radio address from Shanghai, where he was attending a summit of Pacific Rim leaders.

He conceded investigators had not yet established who sent the anthrax-laden letters to media organizations and political offices, and had no evidence at this stage to link them to the Sept. 11 terror attacks that left more than 5,000 people feared dead in the United States.

"We do know that anyone who deliberately delivers anthrax is engaged in a crime and an act of terror, a hateful attempt to harm innocent people and frighten our citizens."

To date, eight people in Florida, New York, and New Jersey have been infected with anthrax, including a photo editor who died of respiratory anthrax on Oct. 5.

In addition, some 37 people, most of them at the US Senate, have been exposed to the rare bacteria.

Investigators have linked the sudden appearance of anthrax in Florida, New York and Washington to one possible source.

Tests have shown that strains of anthrax sent to NBC news in New York, a tabloid newspaper in Boca Raton, Florida, and the Senate in Washington are "indistinguishable," Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge said on Friday.

He said those samples had not been "weaponized."

Weaponizing anthrax requires reducing the size of the particles, making them easier for victims to inhale. Officials said earlier in the week that weaponized anthrax could indicate the bacteria were cultivated abroad and not by an individual.

Officials did not say whether spores sent to CBS News, ABC News and the New York Post were also from the same batch.

Officials believe that anthrax-laden letters sent to NBC television anchor Tom Brokaw and Daschle both passed through the same sorting center in Hamilton, New Jersey, where two postal workers were infected.

Investigations were all the more difficult as hundreds of anthrax hoaxes and false alarms spread across the United States and elsewhere.

Authorities made it clear that "terrorist hoaxes" would be dealt with severely.

"Our health care laboratories and law enforcement officials continue to work overtime to test samples, to track leads, to prosecute hoaxes that have been reported not only across America, but across the world," said Bush.

At the same time, authorities made it clear there was no reason to believe the scare will end anytime soon, nor that the bioterrorist attacks would stop at anthrax.

"I wish I could tell you that we've seen the end of it," Ridge said during a White House briefing on Friday. "But we obviously are preparing for more."

The government has warned doctors to be alert for any indication of other germ attacks.

In its weekly health bulletin, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged doctors to keep an eye out for signs of smallpox, food poisoning or deadly viruses like Ebola. *AFP*

A PAKISTANI woman prays as around 100 women, children and Jamiat ulma Islaami (JUI) supporters protest against the US-led bombing of Afghanistan in front of Quetta's Press Club Oct. 20. The protest took place prior to a press conference given by JUI General Secretary Maulana Ghaffor Haidri. REUTERS

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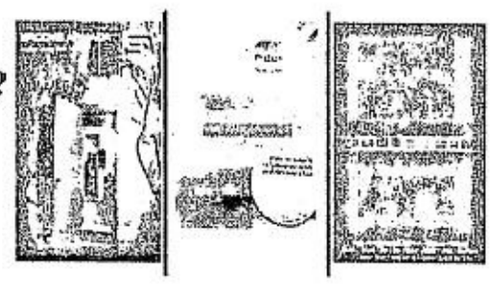

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8 Palestinians killed as Israeli troops besiege West Bank towns

JERUSALEM—Israel's multiple thrust into Palestinian territory was shaping up as the broadest military operation in more than a year of fighting, with Israeli troops entering two more West Bank towns Saturday. Eight Palestinians, among them three bystanders, were killed by Israeli fire.

It was the highest single day's death toll in more than two months.

The incursions—a total of six in three days—were triggered by the assassination of an Israeli Cabinet minister by Palestinian militants. The raids drew expressions of concern from the United States, Russia and church leaders.

But they also brought a Palestinian pledge to clamp down on armed militias who have been regularly attacking Israelis with guns and bombs.

Asked to confirm a Palestinian leadership statement that all those breaking a Sept. 26 truce with Israel would be considered outlaws, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he had reined in armed militants before and would do it again.

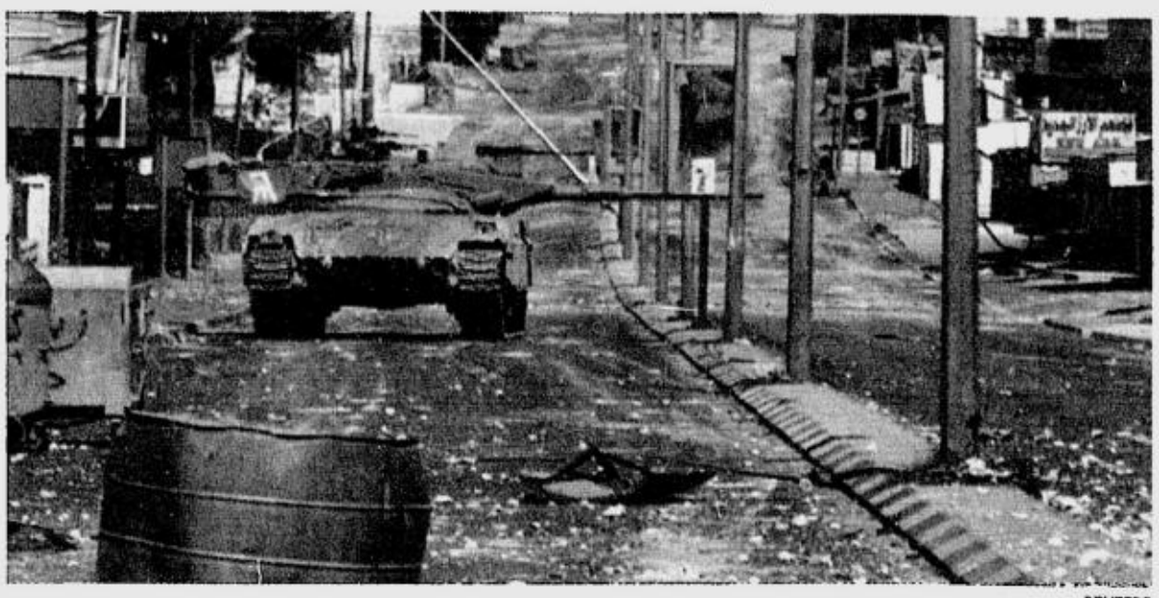
"The decision is the decision," he told reporters in Gaza on Saturday. "We are committed to fulfilling our decisions."

However, this appeared to be more of a warning to militants rather than a declaration that all those belonging to military wings of various Palestinian factions were now subject to arrest.

Israel has complained that Arafat is doing little to crack down on militants. Israel has demanded that Palestinian security forces arrest and hand over the killers of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi, as well as the leaders of the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction that claimed responsibility for the assassination.

As of Saturday, 20 PFLP activists were in Palestinian custody.

With its military offensive, Israel sought to pressure the Palestinian Authority to hand over Zeevi's assassins, something Palestinian officials have said they would not do. *AP*



REUTERS

AN ISRAELI tank squats formidably at the entrance of the West Bank town of Bethlehem Oct. 20. At least three Israeli missiles struck a Palestinian site in Bethlehem on Saturday, wounding at least eight people, hospital officials said.

Pakistan pressed to open borders

QUETTA, Pakistan—Pakistan faced mounting pressure to open its borders Sunday as the flood of people fleeing US air strikes, the threat of starvation and growing anarchy inside Afghanistan accelerated.

The number of people crossing the southwestern Pakistani border post at Chaman, 100 km northwest of here, alone has risen from 1,000 a day to 5,000 over the past week, according to the United Nations. Officially the border is closed.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said at least 10,000 refugees were massed on the other side of the border.

The UN agency is pressing the Pakistani authorities to allow them to establish temporary reception camps for the desperate Afghans.

Ten trucks including tents, blankets and other supplies for the proposed interim camps were dispatched from here on Sunday.

"They are not allowing refugees in and they do not want refugees. That is the reality," said UN spokesperson Fatoumata Kaba. "But we will continue to press the government."

US bombing, years of drought and a looming tough winter is expected to propel 300,000 Afghans toward the Pakistan border in the next few weeks, half of them through Chaman. *AFP*

Faulty US bombs seen killing Afghans for years

ISLAMABAD—Faulty cluster bombs being dropped by the United States on Afghanistan will kill innocent civilians long after the military assault ends, according to an explosives expert involved in clearing munitions inside the country.

Peter Le Sueur, an adviser with Mine Action Program Afghanistan (MAPA), said up to 10 percent of the bombs, described as "Coke bottles with attitude" because of their small size and deadly impact, would not explode as intended.

Instead they will lurk on, or just under, the ground ready to explode at the slightest touch.

"Regrettably they will kill (civilians)," Le Sueur said in Islamabad.

"They have a very sensitive fusing system so if they fail when they hit the ground, any movement can cause them to detonate.

"They can lie there for 50 years before being handled by a farmer or a child, then they could go off."

Le Sueur issued his warning as the US came under increasing criticism over the number of civilians who have died during the two-week military assault on Afghanistan's Taliban regime.

The Taliban claims that more than 500 people have been killed, a figure US officials contest and is impossible to verify. A number of bombing blunders have however been independently confirmed, including the bombing of a demining agency office in Kabul that killed four civilians.

Le Sueur said the US was most likely dropping thousands of the cluster bombs, along with the more well-known "bunker busters" and cruise missiles, on Afghanistan and mistakes were inevitable.

The cluster bombs are dropped 200 at a time from a container that splits open in the air, scattering the bombs over an area of 350 meters by 150 meters.

Le Sueur said the most commonly used US cluster bomb was the Bomb Live Unit (BLU) 97, which had three purposes—to destroy armored vehicles, kill people with shrapnel fragments and ignite fires in military targets such as munition dumps or oil depots. *AFP*

Attacks devastate US firms' profits

WASHINGTON—US firms are reporting massive declines in profit half-way through a grim third-quarter earnings season as the terrorist attacks wreak financial devastation.

"I think we are definitely in for one of the worst if not the worst earnings downturns since at least the end of World War II," said First Call group's research director, Charles Hill.

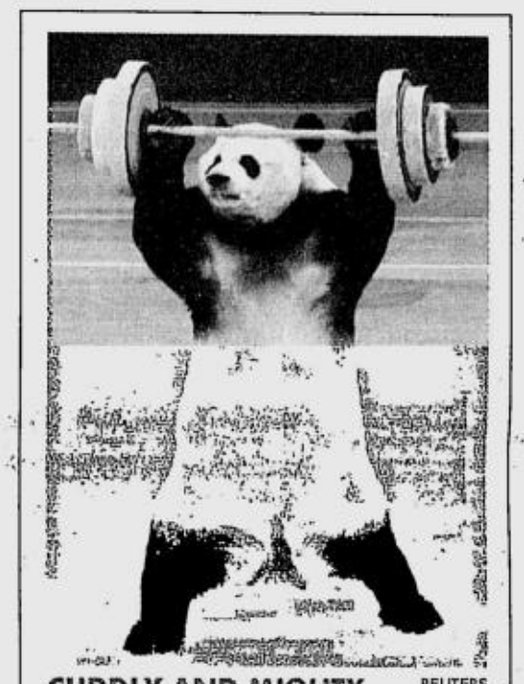
So far 224 companies, or 45 percent of the Standard and Poor's 500 firms, have reported profits for the July-September period.

Hill had been expecting profits to fall even before Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

His forecast had deteriorated, however.

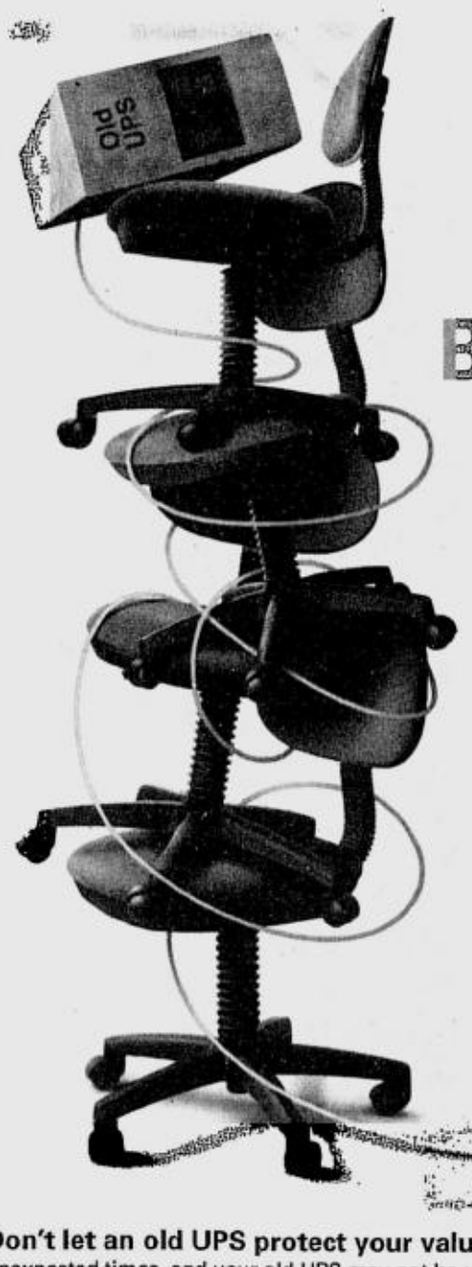
Operating profits for the companies in the Standard and Poor's 500 were expected to slump 22 percent in the third quarter, instead of a 17-percent drop earlier expected.

In the fourth quarter, the profits were likely to plunge another 22 percent, far worse than the pre-attack forecast for a drop of 12 percent, he said. *AFP*



CUDDLY AND MIGHTY REUTERS

Yingying, a 17-year-old giant panda born in a zoo in the southwestern China province of Sichuan, lifts weights during a performance at the Chinese Acrobats Arts Festival in Beijing Oct. 20. Yingying is said to be the only member of the endangered species able to dunk a basketball, go down a slide and drive a go-cart.



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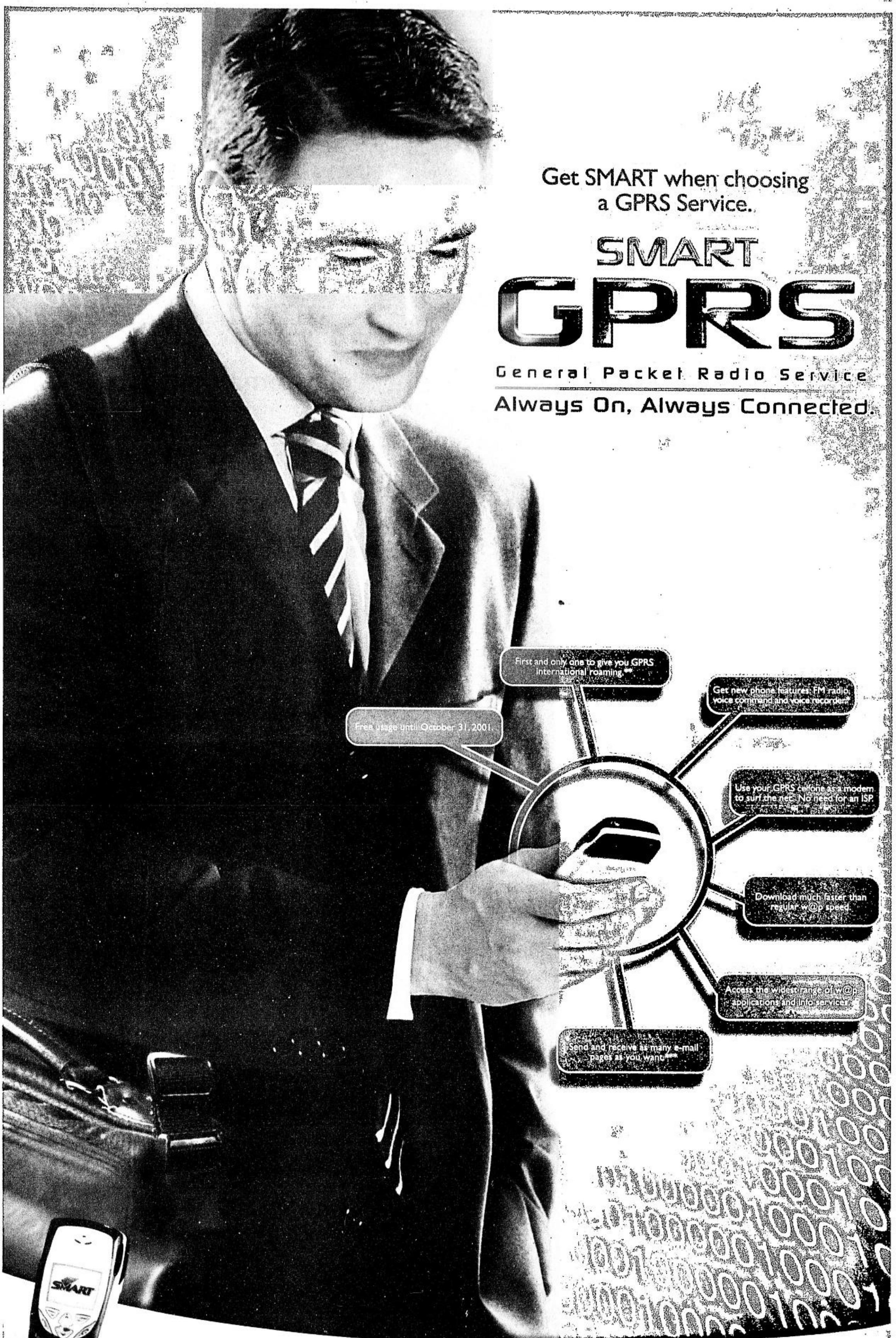
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Ex-Yugoslavia general yields to UN tribunal

PODGORICA, Yugoslavia—A former Yugoslav army general indicted over the 1991 shelling of the Croatian port city of Dubrovnik left for The Hague on Sunday to surrender to the UN war crimes tribunal, witnesses said.

Retired Lt. Gen. Pavle Strugar, 68, boarded a plane at Podgorica airport at 7 a.m., accompanied by his lawyer, family members and medical attendants, only a day after he was released from hospital, a Reuters reporter said.

Only Montenegrin state television was allowed to take a statement from Strugar who looked shaken when he came out of a car that drove him into the airport compound.

"I am going with the conviction that I will prove my innocence in The Hague and that it is also an honorable court as any court in Yugoslavia," Strugar said.

"I am not a criminal. I expect a just court and that I will prove I am an innocent man," he said before boarding the plane.

His departure to The Hague was delayed due to illness and he only left the Podgorica hospital where he was being treated for kidney disease on Saturday, Strugar's lawyer Goran Rodic said.

Strugar is one of four former Yugoslav military officers indicted over the shelling of Dubrovnik.

The indictment accuses them of responsibility for dozens of civilian deaths and charges them with violations of the laws and customs of war. The other three who were indicted—including former Yugoslav navy chief Milan Zec—remain at large.

The Serb-dominated Yugoslav army and navy surrounded and attacked the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik, a Unesco World Heritage site considered one of the world's most beautiful cities, from the sea and neighboring Montenegro and Bosnia.

Their action was in support of a rebellion by minority Serbs in Croatia against Croatian independence.

Strugar's departure comes only a day before the UN court's chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte is due to visit Belgrade and Podgorica, capitals of the two Yugoslav republics, where she is expected to urge the authorities to speed up suspect handovers.

Yugoslav Justice Minister Savo Markovic said on Saturday that del Ponte was expected to insist on the surrender of the Dubrovnik group and the three former soldiers indicted for a 1991 massacre in the Croatian city of Vukovar. *Reuters*

Frenchwoman in space team

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan—A rocket carrying a team of two Russian cosmonauts and a Frenchwoman cosmonaut lifted off from Kazakhstan on Sunday headed for the International Space Station.

The two-stage Soyuz rocket was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan into an overcast sky without incident at 0859 GMT (4:59 p.m. in Manila) and went into orbit at 0908 GMT (5:08 p.m. in Manila).

During their 10-day mission, Russians Col. Viktor Afanasiev and Konstantin Kozeyev and Frenchwoman Claudie Haignere are to deliver a new emergency capsule to the ISS, which is currently manned by a US-Russian team.

The team is due also to carry out a variety of scientific experiments aboard the orbiting platform.

Haignere will become the first French astronaut to board the ISS.

The space flight is the eighth involving a joint Franco-Russian team, and both sides have stressed its importance as a symbol of their continuing cooperation.

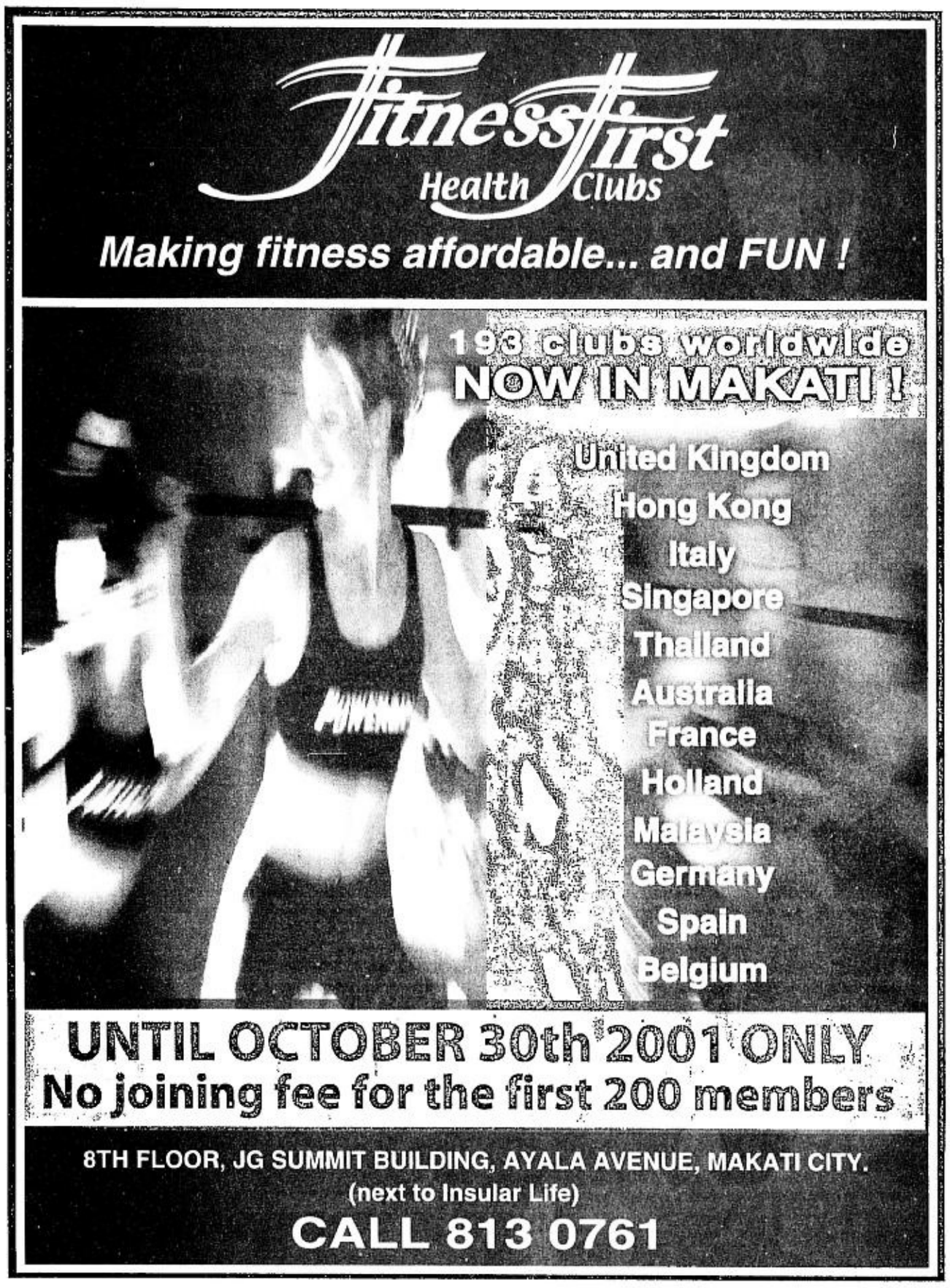
Russia has lately boosted its ties with France in the field of space research, and Paris said in July that it might be prepared to allow Russia to launch its Soyuz rockets from the European space center at Kourou, in French Guyana.

French Research Minister Roger-Gerard Schwartzenberg, attending a space lift-off for the first time, was at the Baikonur space center to meet Russian officials and speak to the cosmonauts in the minutes before they blasted off.

CLAUDIE HAIGNERE

Haignere has made one previous space-flight, also aboard a Russian rocket, to the Mir orbiting platform in 1996, while fellow engineer Kozeyev is making his debut flight.

She was accompanied to Baikonur by her husband Jean-Pierre, also a cosmonaut, who described the final moment of lift-off as "a release, the accomplishment of all our hopes," and by other members



Australia sends unwanted boat people to PNG

SYDNEY—The Australian air force flew 52 unwanted asylum seekers to a detention and processing facility in Papua New Guinea Sunday, Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said.

The Hercules transport aircraft departed early Sunday from Christmas Island, a remote Australian territory in the Indian Ocean.

"Three groups will leave tomorrow and that will complete the evacuation of people who had landed on Christmas Island," Ruddock told journalists.

The predominantly Iraqi boat people will be housed on PNG's Manus Island, which is part of the Admiralty Island chain and a former World War II air and naval staging point.

About 200 boat people will be housed in disused military barracks and in accommodation originally built for athletes competing in the world kayaking championships two years ago.

A spokesperson for Ruddock said the group now being transferred to Manus arrived off Christmas Island more than a week ago.

On Saturday, another boat carrying an estimated 180 asylum seekers claiming to be fleeing Afghanistan was intercepted by the Australian navy.

That vessel is now also moored off Christmas Island after its crew and human cargo refused a direction to return to Indonesia.

Australia is currently attempting to recruit Fiji and Palau to its so-called 'Pacific Solution' to deter asylum seekers from attempting to enter the country.

Ruddock's office confirmed last week that approaches had been made to Fiji and Palau to join several fellow South Pacific states in processing Australia's unwanted asylum seekers.

Nauru, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand have already agreed to accept hundreds of would-be refugees rejected by Australia.

In return, Canberra will foot the bill for purpose built detention centers in Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

Kiribati is also currently considering a previous approach from Canberra.

About 1,500 asylum seekers have been turned away by Australia since August, when the country's ruling conservative coalition first flagged its adoption of a new, hardline stance against people it classifies as illegal immigrants. *AFP*

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Sex workers rush to Angeles

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—As if anticipating a big party, commercial sex workers from Metro Manila and Olongapo City rushed to Fields Avenue, this city's red light district, since Wednesday.

They patiently waited up to Saturday night and appeared to be in for more disappointment.

The guests—at least 160 US Marines—did not arrive. Not one of the six F-18 Hornets and six C-130 cargo planes, expected to land at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in nearby Clark on Wednesday, arrived.

"I wasted time here—make-up, dress, cigarettes and all," said one woman in her 20s, who said she was "imported" from a flashy joint in Quezon City. She was interviewed Friday night in one of the newest bars on Fields, a 2-km stretch of some 200 nightclubs, massage parlors, sauna baths, karaoke bars, Internet cafés, restaurant and hotels.

She said pimps brought their young wards here to get a chance to contract deals with American GIs who might want to have a "good time" during the brief stopover.

"We're just trying out our luck. You know, they pay in dollars," she said before she mixed with the crowd of old Caucasian-looking men dancing sluggishly on the darkly lit dance floor.

At press time, officials of the League of Angeles City Entertainers and Managers cannot be reached to officially confirm reports of the bar girls' rush to Fields.

However, commercial photographers, flower and cigarette vendors and other regular habitués of Fields have observed their increasing presence.

"*Dumami nga* (They turned out to be many)," said one of the photographers who, by 1 a.m. Saturday, had visited over 20 bars.

Business wasn't also too rosy for the Holiday Inn-Clark Field, where the US contingent was expected to stay on Wednesday.

The US Embassy liaison staff canceled the hotel reservations that were renewed Thursday only to be canceled again, Holiday Inn sources said.

A typhoon over Japan, from where the troops were reportedly coming from, delayed the flights, said Angelo Lopez, Clark Development Corp. public affairs chief, told reporters.

US Embassy press attaché Karen Kelly only confirmed the scheduled arrival on Wednesday but could not say the cause of the delay as well as if the troops were part of American special forces to be detailed on the ground in counter-terrorist offensives in Afghanistan.

If they do come, they shall be the first US contingent to use Clark as pit stops since the former huge American military base was committed by the Macapagal administration for the US-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition.

Philippine Air Force officials were themselves bothered a bit. Journalists frequently in-

SEX WORKERS/p.19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of Luzon will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
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IFUGAO TERRACES

Banaue overseers wary of de-listing

BAGUIO CITY—The agency overseeing the protection of the Ifugao rice terraces wants a dialogue with its counterparts in four other World Heritage Sites in the country to determine if new budget cuts would compel a de-listing by the World Heritage Foundation.

The Ifugao rice terraces, the Spanish colonial buildings of interior Vigan in Ilocos Sur, Palawan's St. Paul Subterranean Park, the Tubbataha Reef and the Baroque churches of the Philippines are currently "inscribed in the international World Heritage List of protected cultural and natural sites."

The island of Batanes is already due for inscription in December during the annual summit of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), scheduled in December in Helsinki, making it the sixth heritage site in the Philippines.

But agencies overseeing the heritage sites, like the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force (BRTTF) and the Vigan Heritage Commission, were included in a supposed shortlist of agencies whose budget the government would terminate first under a radical and expanded cost-cutting agenda, said BRTTF executive director Raul Cappleman.

Cappleman said the Macapagal administration's option to dissolve the government overseers could imperil the World Heritage status of these attractions.

"It is still not clear to us whether our country's (agreement) with the World Heritage Foundation (obligates) government to maintain the existence of these agencies. I am aware that Unesco insisted that the Philippines first develop a strong agency and a comprehensive master plan before it nominated the Ifugao terraces for World Heritage listing in 1994," he explained.

The centuries-old rice terraces in the towns of Banaue, Hungduan, Mayoyao and Kiangan were awarded the title in 1995.

But during a weeklong Unesco monitoring mission around Ifugao in September, its consultant expressed some disappointment in Malacañang's inability to "take full advantage of the rice terraces' World Heritage status," said Lauris Anudon, BRTTF technical director. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Charges vs kidnappers

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The daughter of a Chinese-Filipino businessman kidnapped last month filed charges before the city prosecutor's office against eight Chinese who abducted her in Barangay Lingsat here. Jacqui Rowena Tiu, 28, in her complaint filed on Oct. 11, identified the suspects as Shi Jian Hui, Lim Jiang Feng, Xu Yu Kwang, Zang Du, Wu Chang, Shi Chun Qi, Zhang Xi Wang and Henry Ong. Tiu was released by her abductors on Oct. 4 after her family paid them P10 million. The suspects were arrested in separate raids in Bacoor, Cavite, and in a hotel in Pasay City.
Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Promote patriotism–Roco

BAGUIO CITY—Education Secretary Raul Roco said he has ordered the inclusion of local literature in the curriculum to promote patriotism and nationalism among schoolchildren. Starting next year, Roco said teachers were mandated to follow the curricular reform that would include the use of textbooks in Reading subjects, both in Filipino and English, featuring local legends and folk stories of the various Philippine regions. Roco said the curricular reform would help students understand their roots through the culture of the different regions.
Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern

PIA office robbed anew

BALANGA CITY—Burglars broke into the provincial office of the Philippine Information Agency here and took away office equipment and cash. Police said the robbers took a fax machine, a portable typewriter and a wallet containing P2,000 last week. It was the second time that robbers hit the PIA office this year.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Man dies at pa's tomb

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—A man was found dead at the tomb of his father in a cemetery here Tuesday. Police said Emiliano de Castro, 45, suffered a heart attack while he was visiting the tomb of his father at the Sipat Catholic Cemetery. Police said children playing inside the cemetery discovered De Castro's body.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Poll declaration annulled

TABACO CITY—The Commission on Election has nullified the declaration of city Councilor Tomas Cabiles Jr. as the No. 8 winning candidate in the May elections and ordered that the 11th placer be declared the 10th winning councilor. In a six-page decision, the Comelec declared Cabiles' certificate of candidacy null and void because of his ineligibility to run for the position. Cabiles said he would bring the matter up to the Supreme Court.
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bill vs drug smuggling

LUCENA CITY—Four Quezon lawmakers jointly filed a House resolution calling on government agencies concerned to adopt stringent measures to prevent drug smuggling in the province. Representatives Rafael Nantes, Lynette Punzalan, Aleta Suarez and Georgilu Yumul Hermida filed House Resolution No. 259 calling on several House committees to conduct an inquiry into the renewed smuggling incidents in Quezon. Nantes said the investigation aimed to ferret out the truth on what went wrong with the government agencies tasked to prevent drug smuggling.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Farmers seek payment

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—Hundreds of farmers from Batangas joined about a thousand others who marched and picketed in Makati City to ask the families of Ayala-Zobel, Gonzalo Puyat, Don Pedro Roxas and other giant landlords and developers "to assume responsibility for causing misery to peasants in the province." The farmers are seeking payment from developers and big landlords led by the Ayala, Roxas and Puyat families, according to Guillermo Bautista, chair of the Samahan ng mga Magbubukid sa Batangas.
Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 NPA rebels slain

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Two communist rebels were killed in an encounter with Army soldiers in Bukidnon over the weekend. Soldiers of the 8th Infantry Battalion were visiting Sitio Gamot in Barangay Sta. Filomena, Quezon town when they chanced upon 15 suspected members of the New People's Army. A 10-minute battle ensued. Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infanry Division, said the rebels, belonging to the Front Committee 6 of the Northern Mindanao Regional Committee, brought with them the bodies of their slain comrades.
Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Vigilante kills fashion consultant

DAVAO CITY—A fashion consultant for television giant ABS-CBN here, who is out on probation for a drug conviction, became the 13th victim of suspected vigilantes.

Joel Alburo, 30, of Dona Luisa Village Phase II, Ecoland, had three bullet wounds in the head and thigh and was declared dead on arrival on Friday at the Dr. Ricardo Limso Hospital.

Aside from being a fashion consultant for local programs of ABS-CBN, Alburo designs for program hosts of GMA Davao's weekly entertainment program "Singgit Davao."

Witnesses said Alburo was driving his Mitsubishi sedan with license Plate No. PSX 950 on Palma Gil Street around 10:45 p.m. when the gunman, who alighted from a motorcycle, approached him and fired a shot but missed.

Alburo tried to evade the attack by driving his vehicle toward the opposite lane. The gunman, however, gave chase and fired at the victim several times, the witnesses said.

As Alburo tried to alight from the car, the gunman pumped more bullets into his body.

An unidentified male accompanying the victim was spared from the attack, but police failed to find him after the incident.

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, director of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office, said Alburo was arrested on May 21, 1999 along with another drug pusher Gina Acojedo during a buy-bust operation at the victim's boutique on Palma Gil St.

Last year, Alburo was convicted but was later put on probation for good behavior.

Alcuizar said Alburo was a big-time drug pusher, whose targets were well-to-do high school and college students of two big universities here, including the Catholic-run Ateneo de Davao.

"He is the brains behind the proliferation of shabu in those two universities," he said.

Alcuizar said they have actually conducted a buy-bust operation against Alburo last week, but the latter eluded arrest.

The buy-bust operation came after the parents of a 14-year-old high school student wrote letters to Mayor Rodrigo Duterte about Alburo's activities, which also victimized their son.

With Alburo's death, members of the city council said Davao City should now be considered the country's killing fields and not Asia's safest city anymore.

Decrying police claims that the incidents are "isolated," city councilor Angela Librado said the killings are now becoming a trend." *Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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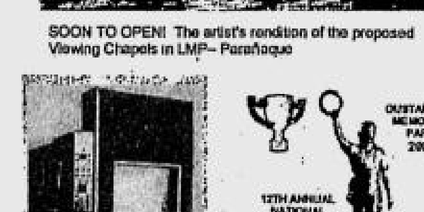

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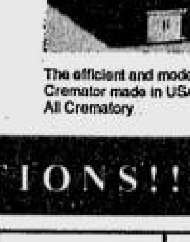

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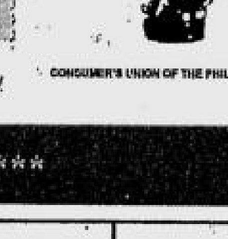

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Bicol farmers hurting

Palay prices dip as imported rice floods market

BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—For traders, the flooding of imported rice during harvest season means much cheaper palay prices, but for farmers, it means big cuts in their earnings.

"If the Macapagal administration continues to import rice without regulation, it might as well tell the farmers not to plant palay because unregulated rice importation kills the farmers' livelihood," said Silvestre Bonto, president of the Bicol Region Irrigators Association Inc.

Bonto said that since the start of the harvest season this month, palay prices have dipped to P5.50 from P8 a kilo in September because of the flooding of imported rice in the local markets.

He said a farmer spends P4.20 for every kilo of palay harvested and earns practically nothing during the harvest season.

Bonto said rice traders who corner most of the imported rice from the National Food Authority could manipulate prices by flooding the market with imported rice during the harvest season.

This is a continuing strategy of the rice traders to control the rice industry and determine the supply and demand of the industry according to their whims, he said.

However, Bonto said that even as the prices of palay dive, the prices of commercial rice, which is locally produced, remain at P800 to P1,000.

The NFA sells good imported rice like Thailand rice at P650 to P750 per sack.

On Oct. 4, the NFA regional office in Legazpi City placed for bidding 16,000 bags of rice from China.

A rice trader from Camarines Sur, Jerbert Yao, won the bid at P550 per sack.

But the NFA office in Camarines Sur puts up for bidding imported rice by as high as P650 per sack.

The price applied during the bidding, the INQUIRER learned, was the "indicative price," which means that the rice stock was more than six months old.

The NFA informant said the two-year-old rice stock from China that was placed for bidding had an "indicative price" based on a canvass from prospective buyers and the possible expenses that the trader will incur to improve rice quality.

She said that the rice stock was placed for bidding through a "Sale Through Market Determined Pricing," which the administrator approved, including the price of P10 a kilo.

The NFA informant said Yao's bid was P0.50 more than the "indicative price" but said that upon remilling, the NFA will have no control over the pricing.

She said the bidding only included stocks from Camarines Norte, Albay and Sorsogon.

Farmers oppose corn importation

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Farmer groups in Northern Mindanao are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Department of Agriculture to stop the importation of 230,000 metric tons of yellow corn from the United States in December.

The importation is under the Public Law 480 Commodity Loan.

The Northern Mindanao Corn Industries Association and the Northern Mindanao Federation of Agriculture Cooperative have been collecting signatures from other farmer groups to a letter of protest that they will send to the President and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

The farmers complained about the timing of the importation, saying it will compete with their harvest season.

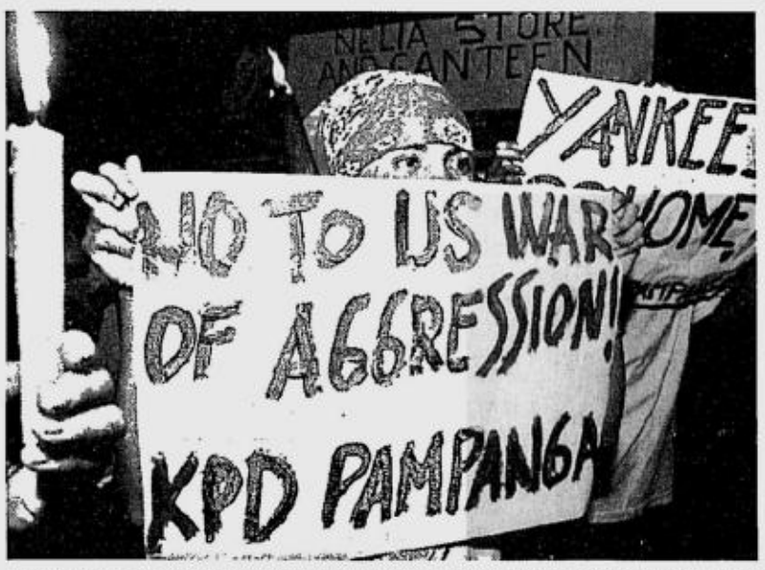
They said that while country needed to import yellow corn to meet the demand, the government should ensure that it will not coincide with the harvest season and thus avoid a glut in the market.

The oversupply, they said, would force the farmers to lower the selling price of the corn.

The country's corn production is pegged at 4.9 million metric tons this year while demand. Particularly from feed millers, is at 5.9 million MT.

Roderico Bioco, general manager of the Mindanao Grains Processing Co. Inc., claimed that the commodity loan under PL480 is a ploy of the US government to subsidize its farmers at the expense of Third World countries like the Philippines.

"The DA should not compete with us. Instead, they should protect the interests of the farmers," Bioco said. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



MILITANT groups picket at the main gate of the former Clark air base in Pampanga to oppose the refueling of US warplanes. VALHANDUMON

Peace postcards sent to Bush, Blair, GMA

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—What would United States President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, United Nations Secretary General Koffi Annan and President Macapagal-Arroyo all got in common starting last week?

Their mailboxes and pigeonholes would have been deluged with "Postcards for Peace," said Teddy Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

On Oct. 17, Bayan and the Justice, Not War Coalition started releasing the first 5,000 postcards so peace advocates here and abroad will have a way of convincing world leaders to stop the war and stop the mounting civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

The central image in the postcard's front is that of a boy with Middle Eastern features. His face—etched not in childhood joy and innocence but in fear, pain and trouble—is superimposed on armed soldiers, B-52 bombers, ships and tanks.

The standard red, white and blue hues of the American flag break the monotony of black and white.

At the back, a question is set in boldface: "How many more innocents will die before you put a stop to this war?"

A brief explanation of the coalition's peace campaign accompanies the question.

Casiño said the sender would have less trouble as the four-by-eight-inch card, which will be sold at a "reasonable price," carries any of the names and mailing addresses of the four leaders.

Bulk orders

In the country, Bayan and its chapters in the regions will print more. Bulk orders, he said, could be placed at 23 Maamo St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

Abroad, the coalition shares the design to its partners that will do the printing and distribution, Casiño said.

The postcard, according to him, is also part of efforts to counter the "manufactured consent" that international media organizations have been projecting.

"We still have to break that. It is projected that this is a just war. With our colonial orientation, many tend to think that the US is justified in striking back," he said Monday after a Bayan-sponsored forum here on "Terrorism and the War of the US."

He said anti-war advocates also confront a media that "uses this war for its own purposes because this concerns ratings. That's what we have to face. The information aspect is a big task in itself."

Bush and Blair were chosen as the postcards' recipients because the US and its allies "appear to be maximizing the war for their own arms industry," he said.

"It's hard to say that the US is pushing this to jumpstart its economy through the military war. But using the logic of capitalism that every crisis is seen as an opportunity, one of the major gainers in this campaign would be the military industrial complex considering that majority of the arms are supplied to the Middle East. It's really a multibillion-dollar industry, no doubt," Casiño explained.

'OA and AA'

He said Ms Macapagal would be swamped with postcards because insofar as the "counter-terrorism war" was concerned, she is both "OA and AA," which means "overacting" and "*atat na atat* (extremely eager)."

"She's trying to push herself too much in this war of the US when she is a bit player. She wants to make it appear that the Philippines is a major player in this war," he said.

Casiño said Ms Macapagal also seemed to be forgetting that there is a provision in the Constitution that renounces war as matter of policy.

He added that the President also "hastily offered" Clark and Subic, formerly American bases, without the US government asking for these and without the UN specifically requiring these as support facilities for the International Counter-Terrorist Coalition.

"A moral statement would have been sufficient," Casiño said.

Casiño said Bayan and the coalition were also gearing up for a "Peace Mardi Gras" on Oct. 28 as part of the "International Day of Action against War and Racism" that American anti-war groups are launching on Oct. 27.

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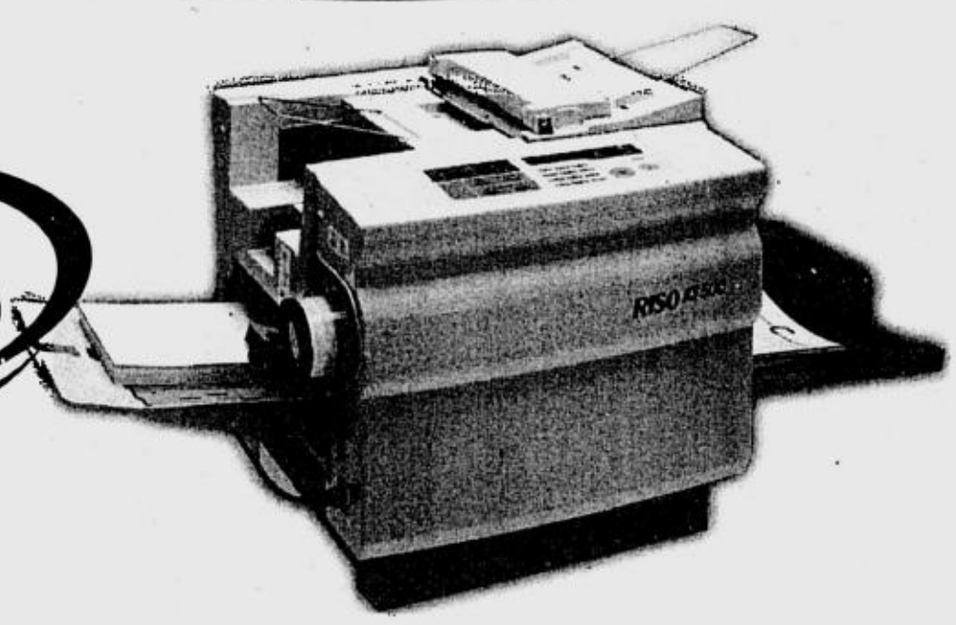

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'Kumander Bawang' not worried about anthrax

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Anthrax has sent thousands refusing to open their mail, ingesting antibiotics and buying expensive gas masks.

But Precy Acoba, a nurse at the Baguio General Hospital (BGH), is not a bit worried about this fatal disease because she always carries garlic in her bag.

Anthrax, meet "Kumander Bawang (Commander Garlic)."

Acoba, who has been with the BGH for the past 39 years, said fresh garlic is more effective than antibiotic tablets in treating anthrax.

And this is no old wives' tale, Acoba said.

"I've been called 'Kumander Bawang,' 'Miss Dandelion' and 'Ampalaya Lady,' but I have medical science to back me up," Acoba said.

Allicin

She said allicin, garlic's main biological component and which gives its taste and pungent smell, is a natural antimicrobial drug that can disable an unusually wide variety of infectious organisms, including *Bacillus anthracis*, the bacterium that causes anthrax.

The Department of Science and Technology agrees with Acoba.

"Garlic as an antibiotic can actually kill infecting bacteria and at the same time protect the body from the poisons that are causing the infection. It is known that the most sensitive bacterium to garlic is the deadly *Bacillus anthracis* which produces the poison anthrax," wrote Claire Buere in the June 2001 issue of the DOST's Infoscience.

But to activate allicin, one has to crush the garlic.

Acoba said fried garlic is almost useless to fight infections.

"Also, if you pickle garlic in vinegar, the allicin will go to the vinegar and you don't want to drink all that vinegar," she said.

Acoba said anthrax victims could crush the garlic and apply it to the infected area (lesions or blisters on the skin) or swallow the garlic cloves.

No victim yet

The BGH, however, has yet to admit an anthrax victim. The only emergency case here on Thursday was when a woman sent an envelope from "The Economist" to the hospital for suspicion that it had anthrax bacteria.

But doctors immediately said it was a case of "overreaction."

Acoba admitted to swallowing at least four garlic cloves every meal for varieties of ailments, like sore throat, colds, fever and flu.

In many health care seminars, Acoba would wear her tanga and coat tails and sing "New York, New York" wearing a garland of garlic and earrings of ampalaya (bitter melon).

"Studies have shown the effectiveness of garlic as a virucide, fungicide and an anti-inflammatory agent that can help prevent and reduce the severity of arthritis, an antidote for radiation, an anti-coagulant which can prevent (the) clogging of arteries, an anti-hypertension agent to reduce high blood pressure, an anti-cancer agent and an anti-free radical agent," Buere said.

"Coconut oil in which garlic has been fried is an excellent application of scabies and for maggots infesting ulcers, and is applied to indolent tumors and leprosy. It is also used in paralytic and rheumatic affections. Garlic is rubbed over ringworm with a relieving effect. The freshly expressed juice, diluted with an equal amount of water or wine, is successful in the treatment of tuberculosis," Buere added.

And as it turned out, garlic's allicin is more effective than antibiotic tablets because of bacterial resistance.

"The role of allicin in warding off infection may be particularly valuable in light of the growing bacterial resistance to antibiotics," says the October 1997 issue of the American Society for Microbiology's Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy.

"It is unlikely that bacteria would develop resistance to allicin because this would require modifying the very enzymes that make their activity possible," it said.

Other infections

The article cited researches from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel that showed that garlic is a broad-spectrum antimicrobial capable of warding off different types of infections.

Aside from *Bacillus anthracis*, bacteria where allicin is effective include *Streptococcus*, *E. coli*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Salmonella enteriditis*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Mycobacteria*.

Acoba, a native of Ilocos Norte; said Ilocos garlic is the best and safest.

"Imported garlic usually coming from Taiwan are full of pesticides," she said.

She also said that crushed garlic is very effective in preventing hypertension.

Acoba maintains a medicinal garden at the backyard of the BGH to highlight the medicinal properties of garlic and other herbs.

In the garden are all the ingredients of the herbal tea *pito-pito*, which the Department of Health has been widely recommending, and other plants including Korean ginseng that, she said, people have been stealing.

Even the weeds in Acoba's garden are medicinal. Dandelions are very nutritious and may improve liver functions and promote weight loss, Acoba said.

"I've been cultivating the garden for the past 20 years and still people, including doctors, are laughing at me," she said.

"Some of the more enlightened doctors are recommending their patients to take herbal medicine while some are either too inclined in Western medicine or beholden to drug companies," Acoba added.

The Philippine Medical Association has cited Acoba for her outstanding contribution in non-traditional medicine. She was also cited by the Lingkod Bayan Awards and was awarded as one of the Most Outstanding Baguio Citizens in 1991.

NURSE Precy Acoba, aka "Kumander Bawang," "Miss Dandelion" and "Ampalaya Lady," in her herbal garden at the Baguio General Hospital.
TOOTS SOBERANO

The National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) said Northern Luzon is susceptible to anthrax infections because many of the sporadic cases of anthrax infection among livestock and humans in the past 10 years occurred in Abra, Nueva Ecija and the Ilocos.

Dr. Buenaventura Navalta, NMIC regional director, said many of the cases here would have stemmed from people digging up long-buried animal carcasses that died of anthrax.

Navalta said *Bacillus anthracis* spores can be active for 10 years but other studies showed that they could stay up to 40 years.

Before the anthrax cases in the United States, most anthrax infections in humans were known to have been contracted through handling contaminated wool, hides or leather.

Navalta also said contaminated animals should be buried in deep graves but this may not be a guarantee that they will again be dug up. Burning is a much better alternative, he said.

Cell phones, not anthrax, hurting mail

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Cellular phones, not anthrax-laden letters, are the real threats to the Philippine Postal Corp. (Philpost) this Christmas in the Cordillera, according to a Philpost marketing profile obtained by the INQUIRER.

"(Cordillera) students have stopped writing letters to their parents or friends from Mt. Province, Kalinga, Apayao, Benguet and Ifugao because of cellular phones. This slide in demand was detected in September in a market profile at the onset of the Christmas mail season here," said Angelita Tictic, Philpost officer-in-charge and a marketing specialist.

Tictic said the widespread fear of the anthrax bacteria, which were delivered by mail to the United States Congress and American journalists last week, would only worsen the already dismal mail market outlook for Philpost this Christmas season.

Promo materials

Like the rest of the country, Baguio postal workers received complaints about promotional materials from the Singapore-based "The Economist" magazine, which triggered fears about attempted anthrax attacks.

Worse, the hysteria guaranteed an even slower mailing process than what is customary in the Cordillera.

"Philippine customs officials have plugged most of the cargo entry points and overseas flights have been reduced drastically, crippling Christmas mail from penetrating the regions faster," Tictic explained.

The Bureau of Customs had stopped monitoring mail and parcel cargoes through machineries, and are handling mail manually to check for terrorism devices like anthrax, he said.

This could mean a slowdown in incoming mail by November and a consequential slowdown in outgoing mail.

"Letter-writing is interactive, so if you don't get mail, it's unlikely you can respond," Tictic said.

Few senders

She said Philpost employees have been documenting the abrupt reduction of mail senders, who normally queue this month with their Christmas mail. The peak holiday mail season is from October to January.

"The mail slowdown was noted as early as September, but the culprit is neither the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the US nor this week's wave of anthrax hysteria," Tictic said in Filipino.

"The shift occurred when Smart Communications Inc. installed a new cellular phone site in Mt. Province and increased the firm's telecommunications coverage for the Cordillerans concentrated in Baguio, and in outlying provinces," she said.

The impact of cellular phones in the Cordillera is speculated to slash at least half of the region's average P3.8-million mail transactions, Tictic said.

She said high postage and a growing population would have accelerated mail from remote areas in the Cordillera to between P4 million and P5 million in revenues.

Electronic mail

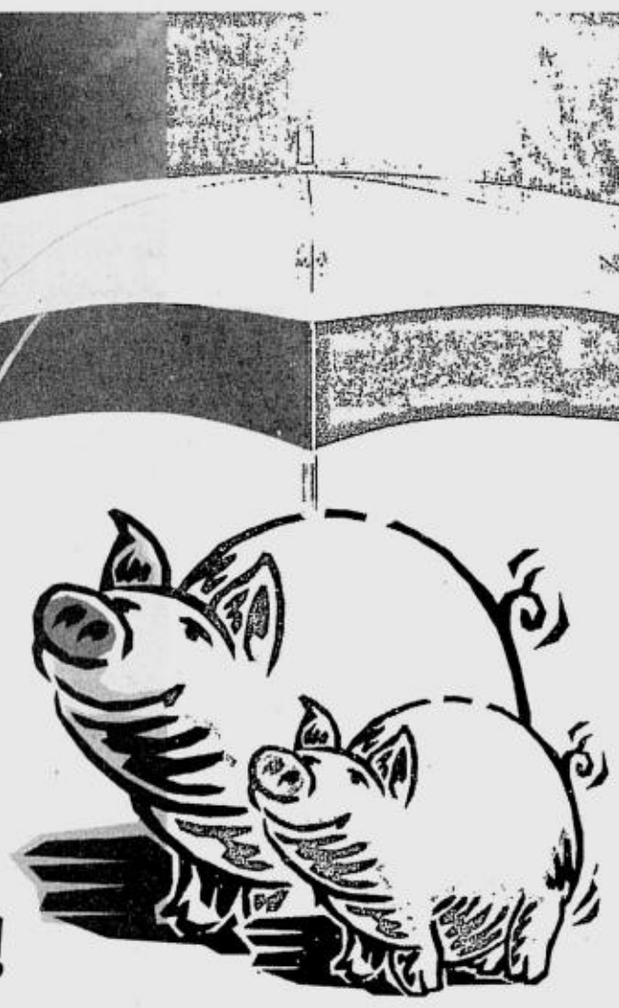
"The Cordillera, because of the telecommunications problems and the difficulty of travel, is traditionally a huge letter-sending and receiving market," Tictic said.

In fact, she said, "we did not foresee a critical slide there because even the Internet would have needed sometime to build a market there and compete with Philpost . . . So the only competition would have been commercial mail services."

Philpost's original forecasts pegged a demand cutback last year due to the prominence of electronic mail transacted through the Internet.

But a parallel survey that Philpost conducted in September in business offices and schools indicated that students have resorted to the cellular phone, instead of letters, in order to reach their families in remote areas of the Cordillera.

The same survey indicated that 85 percent of the Cordillerans based in Baguio and in other provinces in the region already own cellular phones and most have stopped transacting through the mail.



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APEX

New execs of tribal body named

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo quietly installed a new set of officials for the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in September, finally setting in motion the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

Ipra is the only Filipino law to be challenged by the most influential sectors in the country, including the Estrada administration.

"Erap was afraid (of the Ipra's impact) when he challenged the law before the Supreme Court (in 1998), but (Ms Macapagal) has instructed this government to implement all the provisions of Ipra, without (equivocation)," said Evelyn Dunuan, newly appointed NCIP chair.

2nd Cordilleran

Dunuan, an Ibaloi, is the second Cordilleran to head the NCIP, after David Daoas, a member of the Kankanaey tribe.

The new commission is composed of Dunuan, an Ibaloi; Edtami Mansayagan from Central Mindanao; Lagtum Pasag who represents the Visayas; Reuben Lingating of northwestern Mindanao; Norma Gonos of Southeastern Mindanao; Pablo Santos representing indigenous peoples' groups in Luzon; and Corazon Espino who represents Cagayan Valley.

Ipra allows the government to issue titles to all ancestral land and ancestral domain claims in the country.

The United Nations considered Ipra an "unprecedented" measure benefiting indigenous peoples, but the law was stalled in the last three years after Estrada kept the original NCIP in hiatus, Dunuan told the INQUIRER on Tuesday at the conclusion of a three-day peace conference here.

The Office of the Solicitor General, during Estrada's term, qualified Ipra as an "unconstitutional" law, and had joined a Supreme Court suit filed by retired Justice Isagani Cruz to question the law.

But the tribunal dismissed the case on a technicality.

Final dismissal

Dunuan said Malacañang has just received a final Supreme Court notice dismissing Cruz's appeal for reconsideration, and is now ready to implement Ipra "with enough sensitivity to the interests (of pressure groups like) the mining sector."

"The President is very, very careful about the mining sector. The mining industry feels that Ipra contradicts many provisions of the 1995 Philippine Mine Act, (which provides attractive incentives to foreign investors). That is how we have been treating mining issues in Mindanao, when it involved (indigenous Filipinos)," Dunuan said.

But unlike Estrada, Ms Macapagal will be upholding the little-known Cariño Doctrine, the only judicial precedent on record that recognizes the inherent proprietary rights of indigenous peoples over their land.

Dunuan said Malacañang is also addressing salient recommendations about NCIP, which was offered in a terminal report to Estrada last year by the Presidential Task Force on Indigenous Peoples (PTFIP) led by former Kalinga-Apayao Rep. William Claver.

Claver noted that NCIP had been "damaged" by fractional politics among the country's tribal communities and carried over institutionalized graft and corruption that was prevalent in the defunct Office of Northern Luzon Communities (ONCC) and the precursor of what is now the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA).

"Claver's report was unfortunately ignored by Erap," Dunuan said.

Ms Macapagal asked Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo to reverse the OSG's position about Ipra's constitutionality, and directed NCIP to review 500 controversial Certificates of Ancestral Land and Ancestral Domain Titles (CALTs and CADTs), which Daoas was supposed to release shortly after Estrada's ouster this year. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Sex workers . . .

(From page 16)

quired on the US troops' expected time of arrival that since Wednesday had been canceled thrice, according to Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public affairs chief of the Air Force City based in Clark.

Journalists, from local and international news organizations, were themselves tired from the waiting.

Bad weather appeared to be really the cause of the delay. On Saturday, a P-3 Orion aircraft also canceled its flight to the Subic Bay International Airport inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales due to bad weather, according to a source at the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACom).

The aircraft, a long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft of the US Navy, comes thrice a year to do oceanographic surveys in international waters.

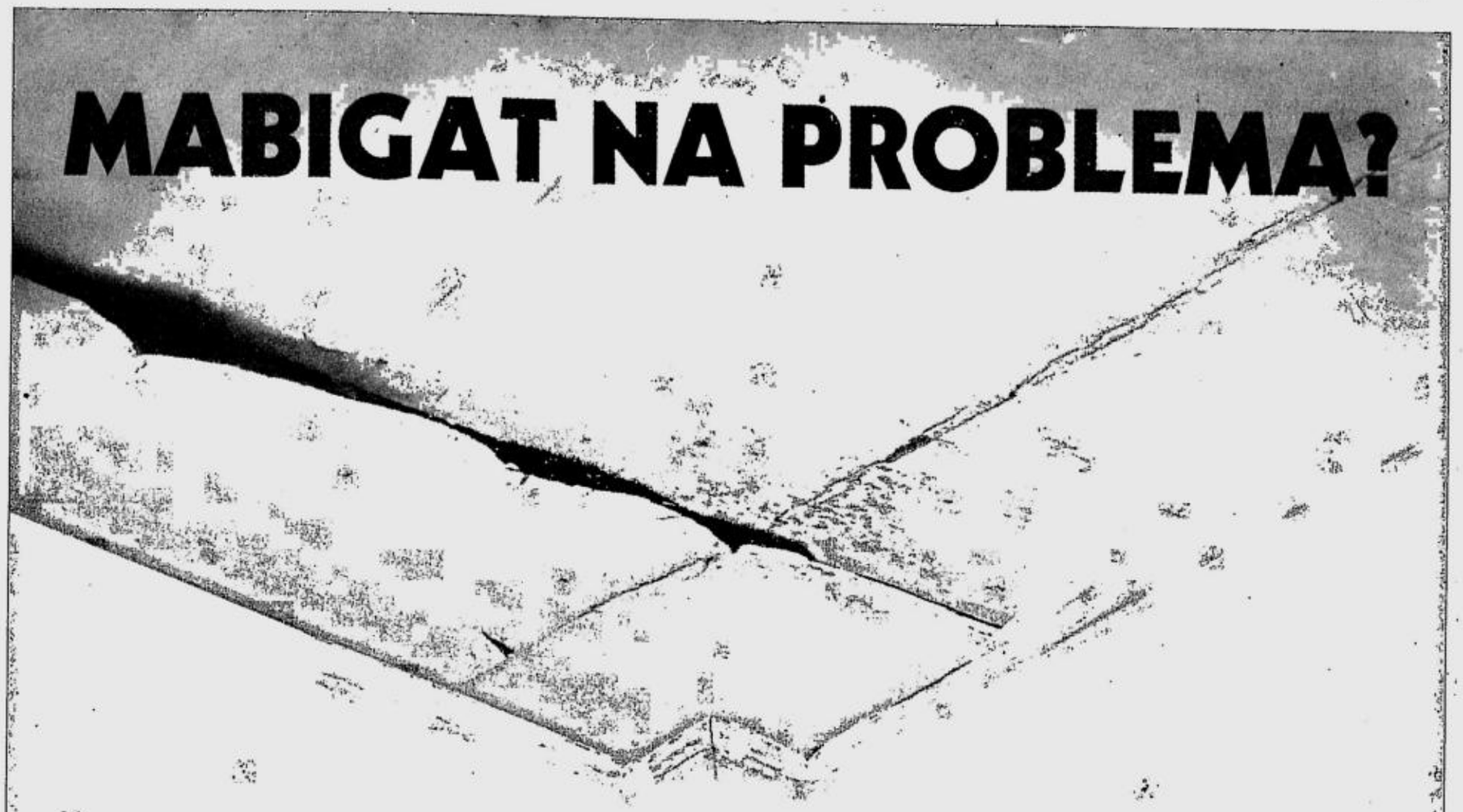
The VFACom source said the surveys had nothing to do with the offensives in Afghanistan. "None at all," the source said.

But even before the US troops arrived, anti-war activists got news of their arrival.

The Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, for instance, staged a torch parade from Angeles City to Clark's main gate urging Clark officials to stop the entry of nuclear weapons and US troops at the 43,000-hectare special economic zone.

Anti-riot policemen estimated the protesters to be between 80 and 120.

MABIGAT NA PROBLEMA?



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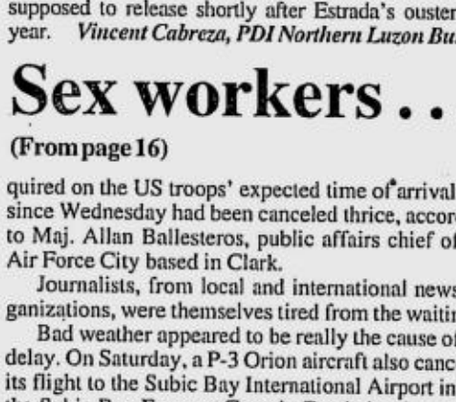

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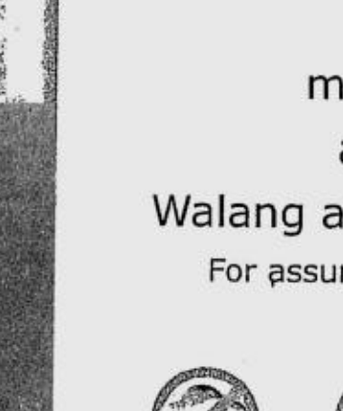

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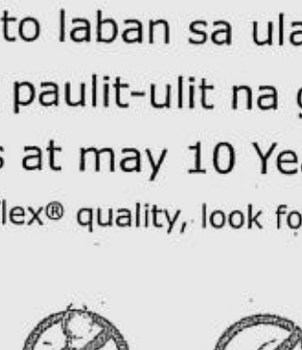

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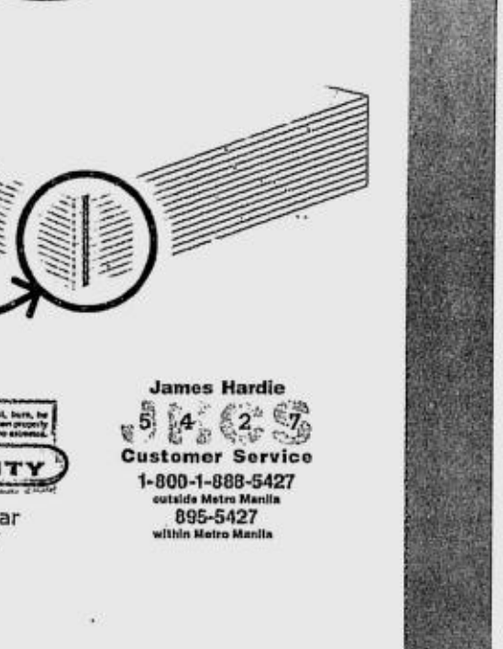

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Hearings reduced to burlesque

(From page A1)

used to finance the campaign of four senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition.

The opposition in the Senate has revived the inquiry into an allegation that Arroyo took bribes in the franchise deal.

The first Senate inquiry was stopped because no corroborative evidence was produced and that the President herself came off unscathed and underlined the fact that she vetoed the franchise. In short, the muckraking attempt failed to stick mud on her.

Aside from the fact that no damning evidence has been produced to link the President to the allegations being pushed by the opposition and its hirelings, there is an important reason why it has not damaged the Macapagal administration the way the Estrada administration was devastated by the introduction of evidence on corruption during his impeachment trial.

The reason is that the Filipinos, as well as probably most other people in the world, are riveted to the epic struggle against terrorists.

This struggle, in which the Philippines has become deeply involved, has been considered by Filipinos an event with more profound effect on them than the charade of Senate investigations which have provided the stage for the theater of the burlesque.

Opinion polls

If we take recent opinion poll surveys as a guide, the attempts to use scandals as a weapon to destroy the credibility of the administration have failed to produce the desired results.

For example, Pulse Asia's survey, taken between Sept. 22 and Oct. 4—after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US—shows that six out of 10 Filipinos (or 63 percent) approved of the performance of the President. She maintained her approval rating in March, when it was polled for the first time since she took office. The President had a net approval rating of 46 percent, increasing by 5 percent her net approval rating of 41 percent in the second quarter.

A further sign of approval for her administration is that all 23 Cabinet members enjoyed net approval ratings despite the economic downturn and the torrent of scandal mongering in the Senate.

In the absence of a definite finding on public support for policy, this result probably suggests that her strong support for the international coalition in the campaign on terrorism may have helped shore up her approval rating.

The finding may well suggest that the public is weary of investigations as the main preoccupation of the legislature and that it may be sending signals that priority should be addressed to such important issues as reviving the economy and that partisan political skirmishes give way to seeking a national consensus on an agenda of good governance and economic recovery programs.

SWS trends

The Pulse Asia survey reflects similar trends picked up by Social Weather Stations. In the SWS survey of Sept. 1-18, 45 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the President's performance while 30 percent were dissatisfied, for a net satisfaction rating of +15 percent. What's significant is that her net satisfaction rating is statistically equal to her net ratings of +15 percent in July, +18 in May and +17 in April.

What these two surveys seem to tell us is that the President has proved impervious to scandal-mongering and that they are sending a message to the opposition that it has to change its approach from the guerrilla war or scorched policy relative to the administration to a more constructive role based on programs and policies.

One indication of this message is that in the Pulse Asia survey, Sen. Edgardo Angara had a 62-percent net approval rating, putting him in the league of seven top-rating senators. Although Angara stuck to deposed President Joseph Estrada as his executive secretary when his government collapsed, Angara has been associated with the moderate strand in the opposition and putting emphasis on issues and policies. However, Angara should be warned that the public perception that he is somewhat linked to the scandal mongering in the Senate could harm his image as a consensus-seeker and an issue-oriented politician.

Destabilization

Based on these poll findings, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao has been too quick to conclude that the destabilization threat to the President is behind her. She is not yet out of the woods. The economy is being pulled down by the eddies of the global economic slowdown, aggravated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Her husband, Mike Arroyo, remains the chink in her armor. He is the magnet for attacks and it is perhaps a sign of exhaustion of opposition efforts to pin him down that it has revived the inquiry into the alleged bribery attempt to reverse the presidential veto on the telecom franchise. The opposition should do a better job at political demolition than what it is doing now, and its shotgun tactics are proving ineffective, if not tiresome.

The testing ground for the President's performance is on the economy. Unless a calamitous scandal explodes in her administration, she will be rated on her policy of committing the Philippines to the international campaign on terrorist war and on her economic management.

Her foreign policy outlook, I shall demonstrate in another outlook, is a weakness and her choice of key people in the Cabinet and in the foreign services is flawed.

Her decision-making process also shows signs of weakness and is developing into a solo performance—a bad thing in times of international crisis. This will be elaborated in another article.

MAHMOUD Asfour's mansion atop a mountain in Barangay Casat in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. BEN MOSES EBREO

Jordanian is Vizcaya hero

(From page A1)

have learned to love Filipinos because they are so kindhearted and dedicated to their work. (They are) very patient," he said.

His good impression of Filipinos began when his car bogged down in the middle of a desert in Saudi Arabia before the Gulf War. Stranded in the desert for two days, he said he was already dying from hunger and thirst when a Filipino truck driver found him and gave him water, shared a sandwich and then brought him home.

Since then, Asfour said, his respect for Filipinos never wavered. At the height of the Gulf War, for instance, he provided shelter and food for Filipino overseas contract workers.

Adopted son

Asfour visited the Philippines in the 1980s as part of the IMF team that studied the government's application for a $128-million loan. After his stint in international banking, Asfour settled in this town in 1991 and married Marriam, 39, a Novo Vizcayana. They have three children, all studying in Casat.

Asfour has since provided funds to rehabilitate elementary school buildings, bought books, offered medical assistance and provided scholarship grants to about 100 poor children in Bayombong and Villaverde towns.

He also shoulders the salaries of 12 teachers and 48 health workers in various villages in this capital town.

Asfour's recognition by the provincial board as an adopted son was supported by villagers, beneficiaries of his projects and officials of Villaverde and Bayombong.

Genaro Basilio Jr., coordinator of the Assistance Council for Vizcayano Overseas Workers, said Asfour was also an important partner in contacting various embassy officials in the Middle East to help settle various problems of Filipino workers there.

Julie Marlon Directo of the Nueva Vizcaya State Polytechnic College in Bambang town said Asfour has been donating P10,000 monthly to the school's five-year fund-raising project since June.

Lord's Prayer

Asfour's mansion, 7 kilometers from the town proper, is the biggest house in the province.

On the road to the 4.7-hectare spread, lines from the "Lord's Prayer" are printed on 15 steel boards and placed along the roadside.

His friends, who include Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., said Asfour has even recommended Filipinos to be hired by kings in the Middle East.

Ablan was in the province on Oct. 11 along with Education Secretary Raul Roco as guests during the groundbreaking ceremonies of Asfour's P40-million Rizal Shrine in Barangay Casat—a training complex that would also feature a children's park, function halls, a sports complex and a venue for livelihood projects.

Asfour said he sponsored the project as charitable institution for Novo Vizcayanos.

"He told me, as his lawyer and friend, that if something happens to him, he wanted to be buried here," Ablan said in Ilocano.

The Rizal Shrine is being built atop a hill while the rest of the complex would be built in front of Asfour's mansion.

Asfour, who claimed to have studied 59 beliefs and religions, joined the Order of the Knights of Rizal, an organization that seeks to promote and emulate the values, virtues and services of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal.

He said the project aims to provide financial support for poor families and as a venue for "cultural learning."

"I would like our members to stick and believe on the holiness and works of our great national father . . . And I don't want our children to be left alone to the media that are full of sex, crime, violence and drugs. (I want to) help the people improve their lives," he said.

He said he wanted the project's beneficiaries "to believe (in) Rizal's words to start and build this great nation."

He said he would get the funds for the yearlong construction of the shrine from "my personal sources."

"I don't look for donors. I will do my best to finance everything and operate it myself," he told the INQUIRER.

"Forget about money, this is between me and God. All that I am doing is in preparation for me when I go back to God. I hope he accepts it," he added.

Talks on for sick priest, but AFP poised to strike

(From page A1)

dration.

Bishop Jimenez confirmed that Pierantoni "is a sickly man" who drinks only mineral water or boiled water.

MILF help

In General Santos City, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government was open to the idea of other groups helping out in the negotiations.

"Some workers of the Church hierarchy have already made overtures to the (Moro Islamic Liberation Front). I heard over the radio that the MILF was waiting for a formal request. Let's see how the rescue efforts develop and we'll see whether there are overtures from any (other) sectors," Reyes said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu earlier said his group had to receive a note from the clergy first before it can undertake any move to secure the release of the Italian missionary.

But Jimenez said he was puzzled by the need for a formal request. "Why do we have to write a request letter if they are willing to help?"

If the MILF were sincere, he said, there would be no need for a request.

The MILF had played a key role in Friday's release of Zhang. Unnamed sources in the Moro separatist movement were also reported to have said "money changed hands."

Pentagon spokesperson Faizal Marohombsar was quoted as saying "we got what we wanted." But Tiglao maintained that the MILF, with the help of the Libyan Embassy, was able to convince the group to release Zhang.

Tiglao denied any knowledge, however, of reports that parties which negotiated for the release of the Chinese gave concessions to the gang.

Reports quoted Libyan Ambassador Salem Adem as having said the kidnappers were offered a share in a multimillion-peso palm oil project in Cotabato financed by the Khadaffy Foundation for International Charitable Associations.

"We're not aware of that," Tiglao said.

The MILF has officially distanced itself from the abductions and has offered to help track down the kidnappers as part of "confidence-building measures" amid the peace negotiations.

But a Southern Command report yesterday said Pierantoni was spotted inside the "MILF camp of Bangsamoro Islamic armed forces 3rd division in Sultan Gumander town in Lanao del Sur."

Family hopeful

Zhang's release has given Pierantoni's family and colleagues some hope. His superior, Fr. Jerry Sheehy, called the development "encouraging."

"We know that his health is not so strong. We do not wish anyone to be harmed, but we do want our brother to be set free," said Sheehy, adding that none of the kidnappers had contacted Pierantoni's family or friends so far.

Pierantoni's mother wrote the kidnappers yesterday, appealing for her son's safe release.

"I speak with the heart of a mother, full of sorrow . . . I ask, full of trust in your goodness, that you (set) him free. I am very worried about him, he has health problems . . . I know my son, and I'm sure that if you (set) him free, he would continue to love you all and to help all those who are in need, as he has done until now."

Various inter-faith groups in Pagadian City have been working for the safe release of Pierantoni, Sheehy said.

Commander Ramsey

Mohammad said Norhan Amil, alias Commander Ramsey, was behind the kidnapping.

He claimed that he was picked up by Ramsey's group only the day before the gang abducted the priest from his Our Lady of Fatima convent in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur.

Mohammad, 20, identified seven of Ramsey's companions, most of them only through their aliases.

Police had earlier identified Marohombsar as one of the suspects. But Mohammad said there was no Marohombsar in the group that snatched the priest.

He said the group fled with its victim on a motorized boat and left him in Sitio Sakatan, also in Dimataling.

Mohammad was captured in the same place by Army soldiers of the 51st Infantry Battalion on Saturday, Atutubo said. He will be handed over to the National Bureau of Investigation today for the filing of criminal charges.

Atutubo, who heads Task Force Giuseppe, said three officials in Lanao were spearheading the talks with the gunmen. But rescue efforts involving more than 1,000 troops would continue, he said.

Adiong and the negotiating team are expected to meet with Mayors Dagan Balindong of Sultan Gumander town in Lanao del Sur and Mutalib Dimaporo of Sultan Nagan Dimaporo town in Lanao del Norte, in an undisclosed place, Atutubo said.

China's thanks

China thanked the Philippines for Zhang's release, saying the breakthrough would help smooth relations between the Asian nations.

Under pressure from Malaysia, China and Libya, the Pentagon gang released Zhang on Friday to the MILF. The group turned him over to Libyan Ambassador Salem Adem, who passed the hostage on to the government.

"The Chinese government is grateful," China's official Xinhua News Agency reported late Saturday, adding that the release contributed to the "promotion of bilateral friendship and cooperation."

Zhang is in good condition at China's Embassy in Manila, Xinhua said.

Pierantoni's superiors at the Sacred Heart of Jesus mission, as well as the Roman Catholic Church, have condemned the abduction but said they would not negotiate ransom with the kidnappers.

The Italian priest is the latest kidnap victim of the Pentagon, composed of rogue members of the MILF.

In August, the group abducted a Filipino guide and four Chinese nationals, including Zhang Zhongyi's brother Zhongqiang, working on an irrigation project in Carmen, Cotabato.

On Saturday, Cimatu directed Atutubo to provide military escorts to all foreign missionaries in Western Mindanao. But Jimenez said he was reluctant to accept the offer.

"Personally, I'm not against it, but it could give a bad impression. Besides, this would somewhat make us uneasy in our movement," the prelate said. *With reports from Christian Esguerra, Martin Marfil and AP*

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Clark Special Economic Zone

INVITATION TO BID

Clark Development Corporation invites interested Security Agencies to pre-qualify and bid for the hiring of Two Hundred (200) Security Guards for the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Bid documents, Terms of References (TOR) may be secured from PBAC Chairman's Office, Admin. and Operations Group, Building 2125, E. Quirino Street, CSEZ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **09-25 October 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). The new deadline shall supersede the previously stated date in the First and Second publication of this Invitation. Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted to PBAC Chairman's Office starting **26 October - 06 November 2001** from 9:00 a.m. up to 11:00 a.m.

Only pre-qualified security agencies shall be eligible to submit bid proposals. Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by PBAC not later than 2:00 p.m., **18 December 2001** and be opened immediately thereafter.

Clark Development Corporation hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **DOUGLAS B. YBALLE**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2001)

Concert for New York heroes

(From page A1)

off the mammoth concert with a poignant rendition of Paul Simon's "America," then rocked a crowd that included thousands of firefighters, police officers and rescue workers with the appropriately titled "Heroes."

"It's an absolute pleasure to play for you tonight," Bowie told the crowd at "Concert for New York," which was broadcast from Madison Square Garden live on some local television channels.

Despite the tragic circumstances that led to the concert, the star-studded event was anything but somber.

Instead, it was a raucous celebration.

One of the biggest ovations was reserved for the 6,000 firefighters, police officers and rescue workers honored for their heroic efforts in the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

"Tonight is dedicated to you," comedian Billy Crystal said as the crowd roared its approval. Many in the audience held up pictures of police officers and firefighters who died.

Clinton

"I met children who lost their daddies and I met a lot of people who survived," former US President Bill Clinton said backstage. "This is the first time they've had a chance to clap their hands and shout and dance. This is a great gift to them."

Celebrity presenters, including Harrison Ford and Susan Sarandon, brought rescue workers on stage and lauded them for their heroics.

The guests then introduced performers.

Firefighters and police officers laughed and danced in the aisles.

"Saturday Night Live" cast member Will Ferrell got laughs with his impersonation of President George W. Bush, and Adam Sandler reprised his Operaman character in a risque segment that mocked Osama bin Laden.

"There's not a day that goes by that people don't want to laugh," Sandler said backstage. "People are in great pain and you want to just laugh and feel good for a minute and that's what comedy is trying to do right now."

When Joel sang the first few lines of "New York State of Mind," the crowd went wild.

"You look out from the stage, and you see a sea of blue," Joel said backstage. "You see firemen, you see cops, and these guys risk their lives every day. They do this all the time . . . to be able to see a smile on some of these people's faces—they've gone through so much, they've lost so many of their friends."

The Who

Among the evening's most inspired performances included The Who, which energized the crowd with renditions of hits such as "Baba O'Riley," and "Behind Blue Eyes," Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, who sang "Salt of the Earth" and "Miss You."

The evening also had its somber moments. Destiny's Child performed a stirring gospel medley after singing their hit, "Emotions," while the Backstreet Boys dedicated their performance to one of their tour crew members who was on the plane that hit a tower of the World Trade Center.

Interspersed with the performances were short films celebrating the spirit of the city by directors including Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese.

Paul McCartney was the night's final act. Wearing an American flag pin and T-shirt with "FDNY" printed on the back, the former Beatle sang five songs, including "Lover to a Friend," a new single he said would raise money for the Sept. 11 Fund.

He also sang "Yesterday" and "Freedom," which he wrote in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack. Its lyrics included the line, "I will fight for the right to live in freedom."

"This is one of the greatest nights for me," he told the crowd. "I want to thank you guys for everything you've done, on behalf of the British, on behalf of America, on behalf of the world."

'Let It Be'

The finale featured McCartney leading members of the night's all-star cast singing "Let it Be," joined by a few police officers, firefighters and other emergency workers, then a reprise of "Freedom."

All proceeds are going to charities to benefit the victims of New York's terrorist attacks, organizers said.

James Dolan, president and CEO of Cablevision that helped put the concert together, said ticket sales had already raised $14 million.

Columbia is expected to release in November a two-disc CD set featuring music from the show with much of the proceeds going to charity.

The concert is one of three all-star concerts this weekend.

On Sunday, Michael Jackson, the Backstreet Boys, Mariah Carey, 'N Sync, Aerosmith and others will perform during an eight-hour concert in Washington.

A concert featuring Tim McGraw, Sara Evans, Brooks & Dunn, Alan Jackson and other country stars is being held in Nashville. *AP*

Apec declares war on terrorism

(From page A1)

terrorist finances and strengthen aviation security. "What we were looking for was what we got. We didn't need more from this group."

Threat to prosperity

The Apec statement said: "Leaders consider the murderous deeds as well as other terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations, committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever as a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of all nations."

Apec found itself unable to back the US-led assaults on Afghanistan, even though Washington has the support of former adversaries—Russia and China.

Indonesia and Malaysia have expressed worries about the deaths of Muslim civilians in Afghanistan and called for a stop to the bombing. They fear a backlash across the Muslim world could spread instability.

Apec leaders noted that the terror attacks affected the slowing global economy they were working to restart.

"Terrorism is also a direct challenge to Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies, and to the fundamental values that Apec members hold," the statement said.

The leaders called for the suppression of terrorism and for bringing terrorists to justice.

This year, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, host of the 9th Apec summit, wanted to focus on Apec's official agenda of facilitating free trade—at the summit in this Chinese financial center full of shiny modern bank towers—but the war on terrorism was unavoidable.

"I want to emphasize in particular that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States tell us that terrorism is an international public hazard," Jiang said in opening remarks before the leaders met in private to complete their final statement Sunday. "We are fighting a battle against international terrorism."

Speaking to just 19 of his 20 Apec colleagues, after Taiwan boycotted the summit in a dispute over whom it could send as a delegation chief, Jiang addressed the need to stop the slide in global economies.

The world was already in terrible economic shape—with the United States, Japan and Europe all slowing simultaneously and bringing smaller countries down with them—before the terror attacks hit numerous businesses hard, sapping global confidence.

"The stock markets, oil markets, insurance and tourism are hit the hardest," Jiang said. "All this has made an already grave economic situation worse."

The united stand against terrorism was a major departure for Apec, which has traditionally focused on economic goals such as advancing free trade.

New WTO talks

On more familiar ground, leaders, including Jiang and Russian President Vladimir Putin, called for a new round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks next month and for Apec to implement its own trade goals.

"We are determined to reverse the current economic downturn and maintain public confidence at a time of uncertainty by fighting protectionism and committing to the launch of the new WTO round at the upcoming WTO ministerial conference," the Pacific Rim leaders said in another declaration.

The statement said, "it is more important than ever" for Apec economies to achieve their "Bogor Goals" of free trade by 2020.

The leaders pledged to review progress toward the goals, named after an Indonesian hill resort where Apec met seven years ago, in 2005 amid criticism that the grouping's free-trade drive had failed to make much headway.

To shore up support for his anti-terror campaign and military strikes, Bush had held a series of one-on-one meetings with Pacific Rim leaders at the Apec summit.

Bush was to meet with Putin later Sunday before flying back to the White House.

Jiang met privately with Bush on Friday and cautioned that the US attacks in Afghanistan need to be well defined and that they should avoid civilian casualties. Jiang and Putin met Saturday and agreed the combat should stop quickly so a political solution can be found in Afghanistan.

A Kremlin official traveling with Putin said the Apec statement did not represent a change in Putin's strong support for the US-led military effort.

The terrorism statement during the 9th annual Apec summit was a first for the business forum.

The only other time the forum had dealt with a political issue occurred two years ago, when most Apec leaders met on the sidelines of a summit in New Zealand to urge Indonesia to end violence in East Timor, where pro-Jakarta militias had gone on a rampage after the territory voted for independence.

The Apec members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

US bombing . . .

(From page A1)

members of the same family.

Ranging in age from about 8 to 13, the four boys lay under bloodied sheets at the hospital, barefoot feet twisting out. Izetullah wept as he pulled back the shrouds to display the lifeless bodies. Survivors wailed outside.

"We don't care about military targets, if they want to hit military targets, let them," said Bacha Gul, the brother of one of the victims. "But these people are not terrorists."

The United States has expressed regret for any civilian deaths in its two-week-old military campaign in Afghanistan, saying terror suspect Osama bin Laden and his Taliban allies are its targets.

But sustained attacks against the Taliban headquarters of Kandahar have driven away most of the city's 500,000 residents, according to UN workers and refugees.

Poorest of poor

"Now the poorest of the poor have been left in Kandahar," Taj Mohammed, a shopkeeper from Kandahar, told reporters Sunday in the Pakistani border city of Quetta.

He said the only people left were "those who cannot afford to leave."

Attacks in Kabul began before dawn Sunday, with planes attacking targets in the east of the city, which includes the Taliban military academy and several Taliban installations.

Planes returned again at midmorning, raiding the Khair Khana district that has been attacked repeatedly over the past week.

As bulldozers cleared the rubble from the Khair Khana homes where the civilians died, another US jet screeched overhead.

Panicked rescuers scrambled for cover, and an ambulance at the scene sped away. The aircraft left without attacking.

Residents said US helicopters patrolled over Kabul throughout the night Sunday, making their first sustained appearance over the capital. They drew only slight Taliban anti-aircraft fire.

President George W. Bush launched the air campaign Oct. 7 after the Taliban repeatedly refused to hand over Bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Kill Bin Laden

In Washington, a senior administration official said Sunday that Bush last month signed an order directing the CIA to kill Bin Laden, leader of the al-Qaida terrorist network, and destroy his communication, infrastructure and security apparatus.

Bush also added more than $1 billion to the spy agency's war on terrorism, most of it for the new covert action.

As American ground forces began operations in Afghanistan, the United States saw its first acknowledged combat casualties on Friday. Two soldiers were killed when their helicopter crashed in Pakistan.

Capt. Elizabeth Ortiz, an Air Force spokesperson in Europe, said Sunday that the two bodies were flown to Germany's Ramstein Air Base.

"Appropriate military honors were rendered when they arrived," she said. She declined to say when the remains would be returned to the United States.

Speaking at a news conference on Saturday, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers said the dark-of-night covert missions launched Friday by airborne Army Rangers were against two targets at separate locations: a Taliban airfield and a residence of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar near the southern city of Kandahar.

The chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff said the force of more than 100 Rangers "accomplished our Objectives."

Light resistance

Myers described Taliban resistance as light. A small weapons cache discovered in a building at the airfield was destroyed, he said.

Some of the weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades and ammunition, were displayed in a US combat video, shot with a night-vision lens and shown at the Pentagon news conference.

Myers refused to say whether US forces remained in control of the airfield, and he would not say whether those troops left Afghanistan.

US warplanes had struck other of Omar's residences during two weeks of bombing, but Myers said the one assaulted by the Rangers had not been attacked before.

He said US officials had hoped he would be there but were not surprised to find him gone.

Myers would not say whether US forces took anyone prisoner during the raid.

A senior Taliban leader, Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi, said Taliban fighters drove off the Americans, and "the commando attack has failed."

"God willing all their aggressive plans will fail," he told al-Jazeera TV of Qatar. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

Diamondbacks grab 3-1 lead

Mariners hit back

NEW YORK—Bret Boone drove in five runs, Mark McLemore hit a bases-loaded triple and Jamie Moyer saved Seattle's season again as the Mariners beat the New York Yankees 14-3 in Game 3 of the AL championship series.

After showing no resemblance to a 116-win team in the first two games in Seattle, the Mariners got the break they needed Saturday with two outs in the fifth inning on Boone's game-tying hit—which bounced out of Chuck Knoblauch's glove.

They added 12 more runs in the next four innings for the most runs against the Yankees in 285 postseason games.

Seattle cut New York's series lead to 2-1 in the series by winning its third must-win game in a week. The Mariners rallied from a 2-1 deficit against Cleveland to win the opening round.

Game 4 of the ALCS is Sunday with Roger Clemens pitching for New York against Paul Abbott. The Mariners need to win one of the next two games to fulfill manager Lou Piniella's promise that the series would return to Seattle for Game 6.

That prospect appeared extremely unlikely when the three-time defending World Series champions took a 2-0 lead on Bernie Williams' first-inning homer and Orlando Hernandez shut out Seattle for four innings.

But baseball's highest-scoring team—held to 20 runs in the first seven games of the playoffs - finally broke through with help from sloppy New York defense.

Moyer, who has three of Seattle's four wins in the postseason, kept the Mariners in it after Williams' homer.

Known for disrupting hitters' timing, Moyer has had perfect timing of his own in the postseason. After winning a career-high 20 games in the regular season, Moyer has had his three most important victories in the past nine days.

With the Mariners facing the prospects of falling behind 3-0 in the ALCS —a deficit that has never been overcome in best-of-seven series in baseball history - Moyer baffled the Yankees. *AP*

ATLANTA—Who are these guys losing to the Arizona Diamondbacks? Surely it's not the Atlanta Braves, making their 10th straight trip to the playoffs.

No, these are the Bad News Braves.

With a display of glovework more suited to a Little League field, Greg Maddux and the Braves took themselves to the edge of elimination in the NL championship series with a dismal 11-4 loss to the Diamondbacks on Saturday night.

Arizona has a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series and can earn its first trip to the World Series on Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila)—with Randy Johnson rested and ready to go.

"If you try to look too far ahead, you can get yourself into trouble," Arizona manager Bob Brenly said. "We just want Randy to go out there and pitch the way he has all season."

The Braves look as if they are ready to begin the offseason. After clinching another NL East championship and sweeping Houston in the first round of the playoffs, this group of postseason veterans suddenly forgot how to play the game.

Their misery began in the first inning, when Craig Counsell reached first on a passed ball after striking out. It lasted until the ninth, when Rey Sanchez's second error gave the Diamondbacks four more unearned runs—six in all.

Luis Gonzalez finished off the Braves with a three-run homer.

"They're not a team that usually gives you extra outs," Arizona's Curt Schilling said. "You don't have that kind of thing happen when you play against the Atlanta Braves. I've never seen it."

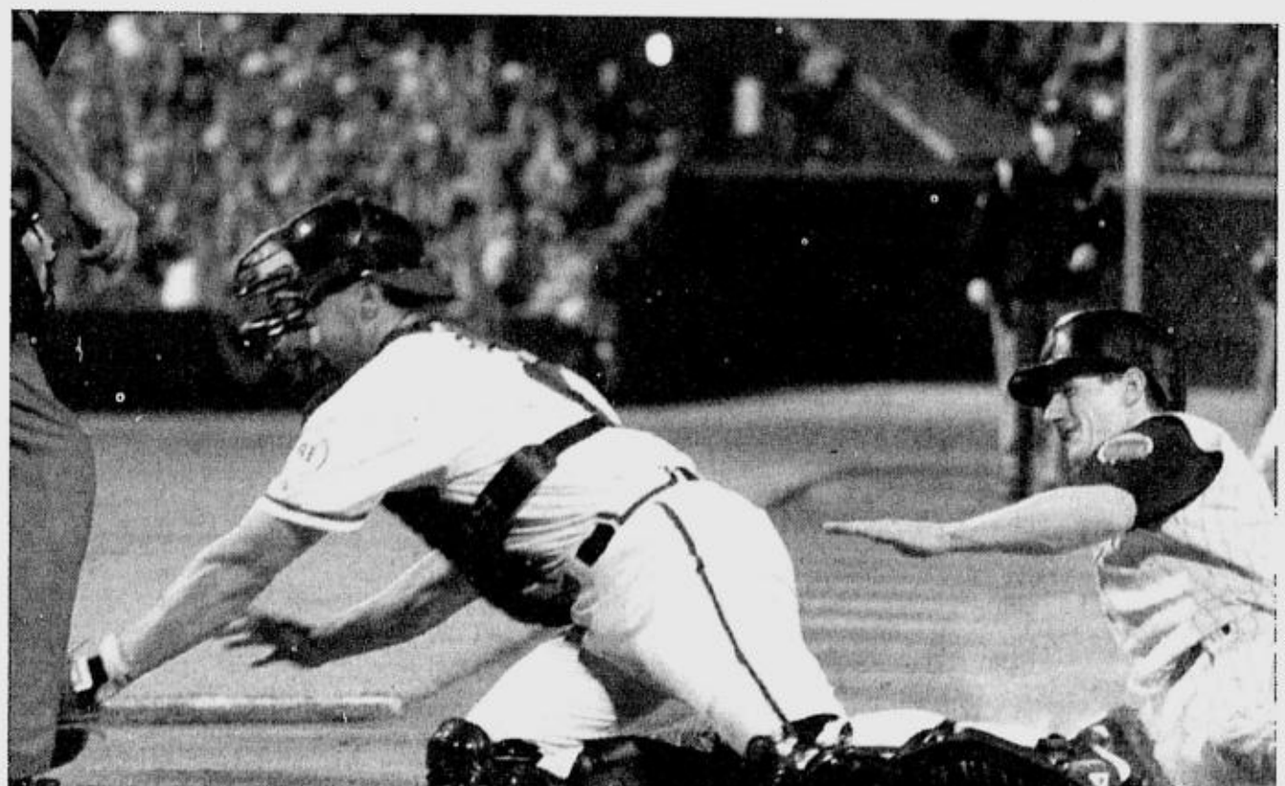
Maddux, the winner of 11 straight Gold Glove awards, looked more lost than anyone during a four-run third that turned the game in Arizona's favor.

The Braves became the first team in the 33-year history of the NLCS to make three errors in one inning, which included an errant throw by Maddux and a mental gaffe by the four-time Cy Young winner that was even more shocking.

Maddux was knocked out in the fourth. Arizona started the inning with three straight hits, the last a two-run double by Counsell, Arizona's Mr. October. He finished with four RBIs.

Pitching on three days' rest for the first time this season, the 35-year-old Maddux lasted just three innings - his shortest start in 29 postseason appearances

Brian Anderson picked up the win, giving up one run in 3 1-3 innings. Byung-Hyun Kim escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth and earned his first save of the series. *AP*



ARIZONA'S Craig Counsell (right) scores as Atlanta catcher Paul Bako reaches for the ball in the third inning. *AP*

Hewitt's No. 1 bid fails

STUTTGART, Germany—Lleyton Hewitt's bid to become No. 1 this week ended with a 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 loss to Tommy Haas on Saturday in the semifinals of the Stuttgart Masters.

Haas, trying to win his second tournament in two weeks, ended the US Open champion's 17-match winning streak. Hewitt could have overtaken Gustavo Kuerten for the top ranking by winning in Stuttgart.

"It doesn't worry me at all," Hewitt said. "Coming into the tournament I had one goal in mind and that was to work my game as I can to give myself a chance of winning the Davis Cup at the end of the year."

"If I finish No. 1, so be it. Coming into the tournament Guga was so far ahead, it didn't enter my mind. I haven't really thought about the whole week," Hewitt said.

Haas, seeded 15th, will play qualifier Max Mirnyi of Belarus for the title Sunday. Mirnyi continued his strong run, beating Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-6 (3), 6-3 to reach his first final in an important tournament.

Haas captured his third title of the season last week in Vienna, Austria. The German has won nine matches in a row.

Hewitt beat Haas in the fourth round of the US Open en route to the title. But on Saturday he double-faulted to drop the second set and Haas broke serve to win the match. Hewitt saved two match points before sending a backhand long.

The Australian was runner-up in Stuttgart last year and was seeded third this time.

"I really struggled with my first serve. That was probably the telling thing," he said.

Haas moved to No. 8 in the Champions Race and could qualify for the season-ending Masters Cup in Sydney, Australia, that brings together the top eight players.

Mirnyi used his serve-and-volley game to oust the fifth-seeded Kafelnikov, his good friend.

This week, Mirnyi upset French Open champion Kuerten, Wimbledon winner Goran Ivanisevic and former No. 1 Pete Sampras. He saved two match points in each of the first two matches. *AP*

Lindsay battles Jelena

ZURICH, Switzerland—American Lindsay Davenport will meet fourth-seeded Jelena Dokic in the final of the $1.185 million Swisscom Challenge after handing Jennifer Capriati her first loss as the world No. 1 on Saturday.

Davenport, seeded third, defeated Capriati 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 to reach her fourth final in five tournaments.

The 18-year-old Dokic needed little time to end fifth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat's 16th and final appearance at the tournament, dispatching the French veteran 6-2, 6-2 in just 53 minutes to reach her second consecutive final.

Davenport has won all three of her previous matches against Dokic. The last time the two met was at Wimbledon in the round of 16, where the American prevailed 7-5, 6-4.

"She hits big and her serve is probably one of the best in the game," Dokic said of Davenport. "I'll just go out there and try to play the best I can. *AP*

Biboy entry wins

JUST when nobody is looking, longshot entry Firebird Ucap March 19-21 Mandaluyong of hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez shocked the 'favorite' by running the NCA 7-Stag Derby last Oct. 15 and 17 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The NCA derby was hosted by Jun Jingco and the Madlambayan Brothers.

Dehadistas had a field day as Enriquez's fighters, composed of the high-breaking Kelso Roundheads, blasted the opponents en route to a 6-1 (win-loss record to emerge as solo champion.

Enriquez, a stalwart of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) and former World Slasher Cup champion, said he never expected to win considering the very tough field of participants composed of Tos Reyes, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Nene Araneta, Patrick Puno and Eddie Araneta, among others.

Enriquez is set to co-host with Palawan's Mauro Prieto a 6-cock derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum on March 19 and 21 next year.

Roligon derby

REGULAR cock fights start with a big bang as Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City offers the Philippine Cocking School's 5-Cock Season Opening Derby on Nov. 19.

Hosted by Ricky Castillo, the derby with an entry fee of P7,700 offers a guaranteed cash prize of Pl million to the lucky winners.

Castillo also said a cash prize of P50,000 will be given to any cocker who garners two straight wins in each elimination set on Nov. 19, 21 and 24.

The championship of this derby sponsored by Pit Fighter Slasher Nutrition is on Nov. 27.

Argentine takes control

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Jose Coceres of Argentina won the Saturday shootout at Disney, emerging from the pack with an 8-under-par 64 to take a three-stroke lead over Davis Love III in the National Car Rental Classic.

Such a margin seemed unlikely, especially considering six players had a share of the lead at some point during a blustery afternoon. Coceres took control with a short birdie on the par-5 10th hole and never gave it back.

Coceres, a 38-year-old golfer who learned to play using sticks and rocks, holed a 4.5-meter (15-foot) birdie on the final hole to finish at 19-under 197.

He won at Hilton Head in a playoff over Billy Mayfair that was carried over to Monday, and now has a chance to become the eighth player on the PGA Tour this year with at least two victories.

His work is hardly over.

Love had a poor round striking the ball and still managed a 67. Another stroke back was Vijay Singh, who birdied the first four holes on the back nine to get back into the picture.

Eleven players are within five strokes of the lead, including Tiger Woods. *AP*

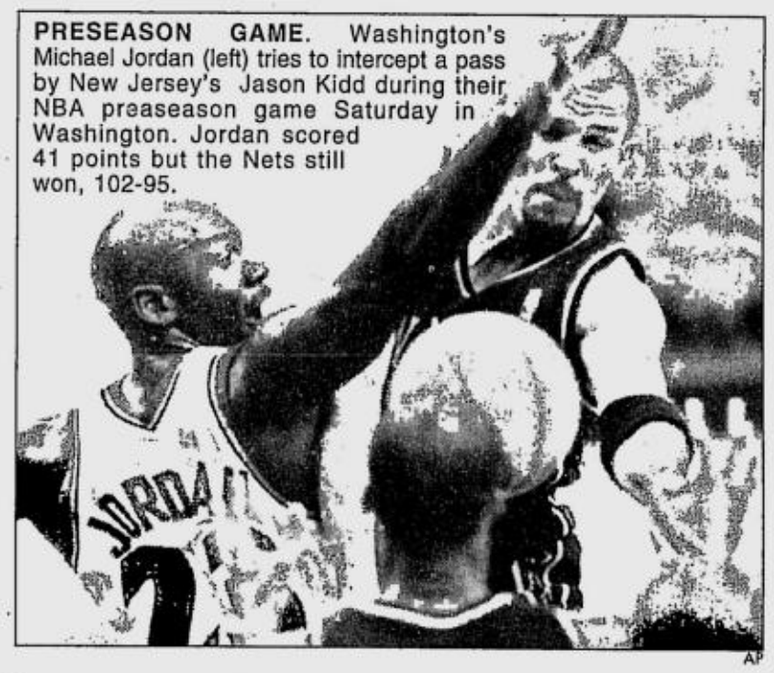
Lawrie catches McGinley

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland—Former British Open champion Paul Lawrie came from eight strokes back to catch up with Paul McGinley in the inaugural $5 million Dunhill Links Championship Saturday although fog and lashing rain forced a Monday finish on the tournament.

The weather prevented any third rounds from being completed Saturday on any of the three courses being used.

Lawrie, who won his major title at Carnoustie in 1999, putted brilliantly to birdie eight of the 12 holes he played at St Andrews while McGinley parred all of the 11 holes he played at Carnoustie.

The third round will resume Sunday morning. *AP*



PRESEASON GAME. Washington's Michael Jordan (left) tries to intercept a pass by New Jersey's Jason Kidd during their NBA preseason game Saturday in Washington. Jordan scored 41 points but the Nets still won, 102-95. *AP*

RALLYCROSS

Carlo Gutang in his Toyota Celica clears a corner during last Sunday's Rallycross Series. Gutang won second overall with a time of 1:42.59.

Nat'l Sieger show unfolds Oct. 28

THE GERMAN Shepherd Dog Federation of the Philippines will hold its 2001 National Sieger Show on Oct. 28 at the Quezon City Hall grounds.

Under the leadership of its chair, lawyer Jose A. Sibal, and president Jewel Castellar, GSDF has attracted over 400 participants during the last three Landesgruppen Show held March 18, May 6, and Aug. 26.

The National Sieger Show held annually has invited an SV judge from Germany.

All participants and trainers will hold a briefing and registration meeting on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 1-4 p.m. at the QC Hall Grounds. Vaccination cards are a requirement for entries to be officially accepted.

The main event will be the open class (24 months and above) male and female for the title of Philippine Sieger and Siegerin, intermediate class (18-24 months), young class (12-18 months) and the best of local born class in the 3-6 and 6-9 months category.

GSDF Seiger Show defines German standard of selection of German Shepherd based on anatomy, temperament, agility, movement and endurance. Excellent select (VA), Excellent (V), and Very Good (SG) are among the ratings awarded.

Defending the 2000 Philippine Sieger is Oscar Von Arminius, while Siegerin titlist 2000 is Kessa Piste Trophe.

The Dog of the Year award will also be determined with erstwhile points leader Calypso Vom Scholoos Ramsberg garnering 45 points after three Landesgruppen Shows.

The show will start exactly at 8 a.m.. Registration is now going on at PCCI office 412-405; 722-8345 or at GSDF secretariat, 831-7371.

Sponsors are Eukanuba, Pedigree, Science, Diet, Woof Chunk, Mera, Purina, Frontline, Happy Dog & Diamond.

Dancesport in Batang Pinoy

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BALLROOM dancing or dancesport in international competitions, is not merely a social or sporting event but also an opportunity to the legions of Filipinos addicted to it to earn global recognition. And one way to become truly global is to start from the grassroots, said petite Becky Garcia, president of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines.

Since its founding in 1996, Garcia said, the council has embarked on a nationwide workshop and competition series conducted by world-class foreign coaches. Out-of-town sorties included the cities of Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, General Santos, Dagupan and Cotabato and several provinces in Luzon, including the Subic Bay Freeport.

"Of course, it will entail a lot of money to conduct the workshops nationwide and bring the foreign coaches here," stressed Garcia, "but we need to promote the sport here which is just growing up compared to the others which have been there for ages."

She added the organization is concentrating on training the youth as they are the future of dancesports. "Our talented teen dance athletes such as junior Latin champions John Erolle Melencio and Krystel Dame Tadeo, the promising pair of Reynier Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio and standard couple Brian and Stacey Ocana have fared reasonably well in several international tournaments." And, only recently, veteran internationalists Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora won the amateur Latin bronze medal in the Asian Dancesport Championships held in Taipeh.

Garcia admitted it will take time to reach their goal, but they will continue to train the athletes until the day when the Philippines finally wins that elusive gold in Asian and World Games and, hopefully, in the Olympics. After all, the future looks good.

"Dancesport is the newest sport included in the Batang Pinoy program of the Philippine Sports Commission," said Garcia, who heads the five-year-old dance organization which prides itself as a member of the International Dancesport Federation, the governing body for amateur dance recognized by the International Olympic Committee. "All national sports associations were required to conduct workshops in several cities for teachers of the Department of Education and the local government to disseminate their knowledge to kids ages 8 to 11 years old and prepare them for the youth games in December in Bacolod. In Baguio, council secretary general lawyer Jo Saliva was the facilitator for regions I-III and CAR, followed by Pasig City (at Philsports Arena), Bacolod and General Santos conducted by Vikky Cabrera, Dancesport Training Center OIC."

There will be 13 events in the third Batang Pinoy, which is envisioned to serve as a venue for discovering new talents. The 2001 edition is being handled by PSC Commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim, the first badminton player from the Philippines to qualify for the Olympic Games (1996 Atlanta). She also conducted a recent Sports Management and Marketing Course and Lecturer's Seminar for the various NSA officials, urging them to assert their financial independence by tapping the private sector for sponsorship instead of pestering the cash-strapped government for support every so often.

"Self-reliance is needed to ensure the success of all sports, including the Batang Pinoy sportsfest in December," said Commissioner Lim. "And tapping the private sponsors is one way to spell success."

CHESS BACKER

The Active Chess Center of Asia Inc., an affiliate of Belgosa Media Systems Inc., extended financial support to the RP team to the 2001 World Youth Championships set Oct. 20-Nov. 3 in Oropesa del Mar, Spain. Photo shows GM Eugene Torre (center), president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, receiving a check from Chess Asia advertising manager Susan Manalo. Also in photo are contributing editor Winnie Gay Dela Cruz (left), special projects editor Suzette Relucio (second from left) and production manager Marissa Prado (extreme right). The Acca publishes Chess Asia, Asia's leading chess magazine.

Boracay diving meet up

THE 1ST Boracay Fish ID Scuba Diving Adventure will be held at Lorenzo Resort from Oct. 27 to 29. Also backing the event are New Wave Divers, Air Philippines and 99.5 RT. Entry fee is P8,535. Highlights will be shown on "Unlimited Diving" which is aired over NBN Channel 4 Mondays 10:30-11 p.m. For more details, call (632) 913-8605 Fax (632) 912-0873, 0917-9368895 or e-mail us at unlimiteddiving@yahoo.com.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Pop edges Purefoods

Games Wednesday (Philsports)
5:05 p.m.—Shell vs Tanduay
7:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Ginebra

BY JUNE NAVARRO

UNDER any situation, Roselle Ellis is capable of bailing Pop Cola out of trouble.

Ellis again did the trick last night as he hit a marginal freethrow with 1.9 seconds left to lift the Panthers to an 85-84 squeaker over Purefoods in the PBA Governors Cup.

As the pro-Hotdogs gallery inside the Araneta Coliseum cursed him, Ellis flubbed his first try at the stripe but calmly sank the second as the Panthers went on to pick up their fifth win in 10 outings.

The Panthers thus broke a three-game slide while fuelling the slump of the Hotdogs, who lost their fourth straight and are now facing an early Christmas vacation at 3-7.

In the second game, San Miguel Beer overhauled a 15-point deficit to turn back Alaska, 71-64, for its fifth win in nine games. The Aces slipped to 3-6.

"When the game got close in final minutes, we knew we were in a dogfight with Purefoods," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes. "But we're lucky enough to pull ourselves out of trouble."

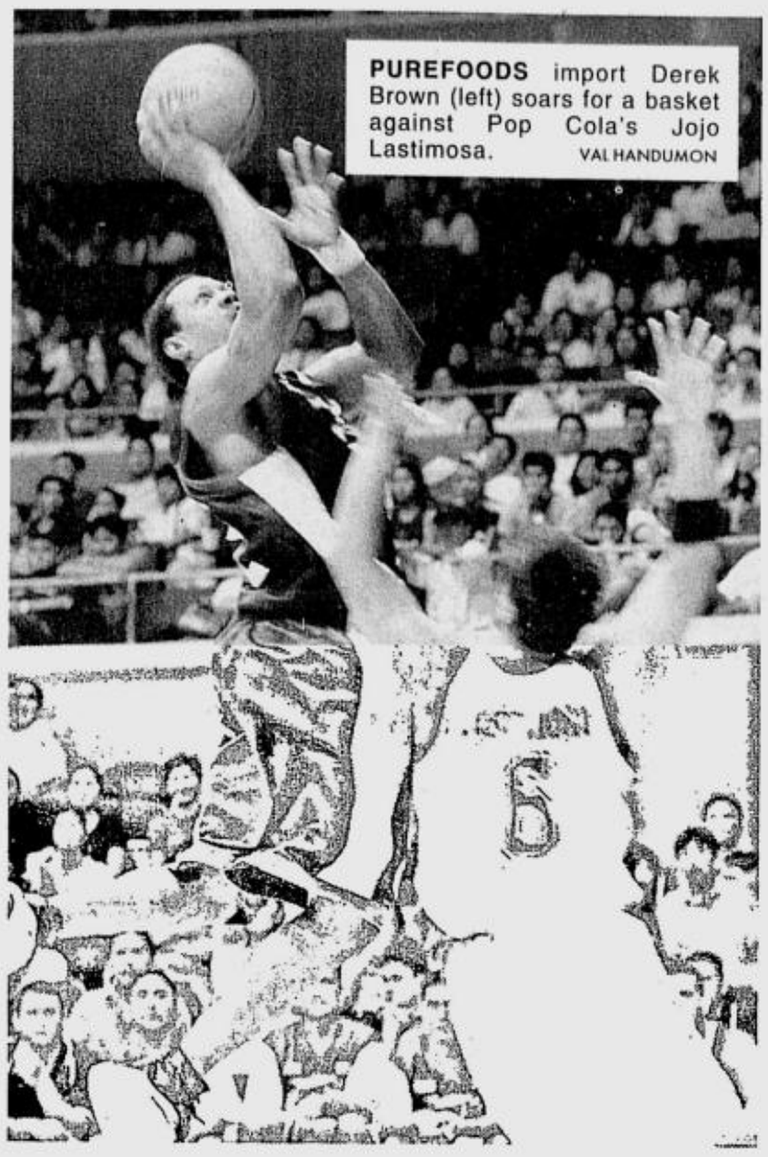
Johnny Abarrientos, the smallest man on the floor but one of the biggest performers of the night, led the Panthers out of a fix as he conspired with Poch Juinio in the stretch to keep the Hotdogs at bay.

But the Hotdogs couldn't just ignore the specter of an early elimination as they evened up the count at 84 through the efforts of Derek Brown, Alvin Patrimonio and Rey Evangelista.

Evangelista could have been the Hotdogs' hero of the night but he muffed his second freethrow after tying the count, paving the way for a loose ball scramble that luckily went the Panthers' way.

Then Abarrientos made a final dash in keeping the Panthers alive, dishing out a nifty pass inside to Ellis, who got hammered by Brown in the final 1.9 seconds.

Scores:
POP COLA 85—Ellis 31, Hatfield 13, Abarrientos 11, Juinio 10, Lastimosa 6, Bolado 5, Ballesteros 4, Asaytono 3, Morano 2, Antonio 0.
PUREFOODS 84—Brown 27, Castillo 18, Evangelista 14, Patrimonio 12, Fernandez 9, Yee 2, Feihl 2.
Quarters: 24-16, 47-43, 67-60, 85-84



PUREFOODS import Derek Brown (left) soars for a basket against Pop Cola's Jojo Lastimosa. VAL HANDUMON

Gems nip Eagles; Knights triumph

STEPHEN Padilla stepped up for Cebuana Lhuillier yesterday as the Gems edged the TPG Davao Eagles, 89-86, and bounced back in the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

Pressure-free, Padilla preserved the Gems' fourth victory against five losses by making his team's last four points, including two freethrows with 11.8 seconds that foiled the Eagles' final rally.

The Eagles, who suffered their seventh straight defeat, wrested the lead at 87-86 on an offensive rebound and a follow-up by Romy dela Rosa after Ryan Bernardo had missed his charity on what could have been a three-point play.

Padilla, however, double-pumped on a drive to put the Gems back on top at 87-86 and then made sure that their two-game skid would end by canning both his charities off Peter June Simon.

For his endgame heroics and contribution of 18 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal, Padilla was named best player of the game.

Peter Naron also shone for the Gems, playing the fireman's role as he stringed eight points to cool an earlier rally by TPG Davao, 81-74, with still 4 minutes and 25 seconds to go.

It was another bitter collapse for the Eagles, who had razed a seven-point deficit with an eight-point cluster marked by a Blitz 3 and a triple by Dela Rosa.

National and First Phase titlist Andok's San Juan dumped Socsargen-Taguig, 83-63, in the second game to improve to 7-1 and pull down its victim to 2-9. *Roy Luarca*

Second Phase

North	W	L
LBC Batangas	8	1
Andok's S. Juan	7	1
FedEx Laguna	5	3
Nueva Ecija	2	6
South		
Negros	6	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	5
Socsargen-Taguig	2	9
TPG Davao	0	7

Games Wednesday (Tinga Gym)
3 p.m.—TPG Davao vs Socsargen-Taguig
Cebu Coliseum
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs Cebuana Lhuillier

Scores:
CEBUANA LHUILLIER 89—Naron 20, Padilla 18, Solis 17, Se 14, Jose 6, Lura 4, Santamaria 4, Mejia 2, Yu 2, Taguines 2, De Jesus 0.
TPG DAVAO 86—Dela Rosa 27, Simon 11, Sasuman 11, Lopez 9, Bernardo 8, Callao 7, Santander 6, Marata 5, Malolyon 2, Concha 0, Daja 0, Bonleon 0.
Quarters: 20-12, 38-39, 64062, 89-86.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour—Thailand at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
GOLF: PGA National Car Rental Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r—11 p.m.) on Star Sports
TENNIS: Masters Series (Stuttgart), Men's Final at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

Franz urges repeal of GAB ruling

FOUR-TIME UAAP champion coach Franz Pumaren of De La Salle yesterday expressed support for the Philippine Basketball League as he urged the repeal of the Games and Amusements Board ruling that the PBL is professional.

Pumaren said the GAB should have considered the bigger advantage for the country in keeping the PBL amateur more than the little money the government could collect as tax out of making it professional.

"I would understand that the UAAP only reacted to the opinion of the GAB that the PBL is professional. It has been the tradition for years that PBL is classified as amateur," said Pumaren.

Athletes to benefit from scholarship

AT LEAST a hundred athletes have been targeted as initial beneficiaries of the Sports Skolar ng Bayan, a scholarship program put up by the Philippine Amateur Athletes Federation Inc. (PAAFI).

Half of the scholars, according to PAAFI president Ma. Nelia Sy-Ycasas, will be advised to take up a Sports Management course while the other half will be encouraged to take up computer courses.

"We have set at 100 our initial targets for the program but eventually, we would like to see more of our fellow athletes benefiting from it," said Sy-Ycasas, the taekwondo bantamweight gold medalist in the recent 21st Southeast Asian Games.

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila has agreed to take in this Sports Management scholars, while Informatics will cater to the computer courses, Sy-Ycasas said.

The PAAFI, an organization of over 400 legitimate national athletes representing 40 national sports associations, is embarking on the scholarship program as its long-term contribution to its members.

Under the program, which will be implemented with the support of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chaired by Carlos Tuason, athletes who hail from the provinces would be stamped as priority.

Those who are also financially unable to pursue their education would be atop the priority list, acording to Sy-Ycasas.

"We intend to target those who are billeted at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and at the PhilSports (Ultra) first since they all come from this provinces," said Sy-Ycasas.

Scooter races on tap

THE SHELL Advance Super Scooter Championships resume on Sunday, Oct. 28, with fourth-leg double winner Gilbert Maningas hoping to duplicate his smashing performance at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

Maningas is expected to be a marked man when races get underway anew in both the expert open and 90cc categories—two of the featured events in this annual series organized by F.L. Racing Tech and presented by Shell Advance.

Maningas defeated Sonny Villarama, Jolet Jao, Mark Chua and Randy Ortiz in the expert open, and Chua, Villarama, Lucky Loya and Winston Flores in the 90cc class last Oct. 7.

Villarama, Jao, Chua and Ortiz are expected to make the necessary adjustments and get back at Maningas.

Adding excitement to the weekend-only races is three-time winner Jaime Barcial, who is also expected to redeem himself.

Race organizer Ernie Leongson of E.L. Racing Tech predicted a whole-day of action-packed races this weekend.

Ritualo eyes PBA

BY DENNIS U. EROA

LA SALLE'S Florendo 'Ren Ren' Ritualo Jr. will leave a sterling amateur record as he prepares to join the 2002 PBA draft slated early January.

And teammate Mike Cortez, who with Ritualo was voted by the UAAP Press Corps as finals MVP, yesterday admitted that he is seriously thinking of skipping college and jumping to the pros. Ritualo and Cortez are expected to be first round picks in the draft.

"Turning pro is a possibility, but nothing is final yet. It's great playing with La Salle and leaving will not be an easy thing to do. La Salle has a winning tradition," said the six-footer Cortez.

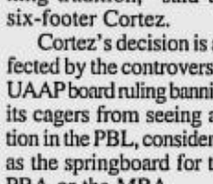
Cortez's decision is affected by the controversial UAAP board ruling banning its cagers from seeing action in the PBL, considered as the springboard for the PBA or the MBA.

In an exclusive interview, Ren Ren's mother Baby called the INQUIRER yesterday from North Carolina, confirming that his 22-year-old son will join the draft.

"It's a go for Ren Ren," said the elder Ritualo, a former professor who taught at the University of the East. "He (Ren Ren) has nothing more to prove and is leaving college with a degree."

Financial reasons

NBA NOTES — *Henry Liao*



THE CAT is out of the bag.

Sacramento All-Star Chris Webber, the prime jewel in this summer's free-agent sweepstakes, re-signed with the Kings simply for financial reasons. While the 6-10 power forward agreed to return to the Pacific Division squad for the maximum allowable contract of $122.7 million over the next seven years, he recently publicly admitted he did not really want to come back to Sacramento.

It was like a shotgun renewal of marital vows. No NBA club other than the Kings was in a position to offer Webber such amount of money due to stringent salary-cup rules. Thus his only option, if he were to get the maximum contract allowable under the league's labor accord, was to sign again with the Kings.

The 28-year-old Webber said the two places he wanted to go were San Antonio and Indiana, even if the only team he visited in person was Detroit.

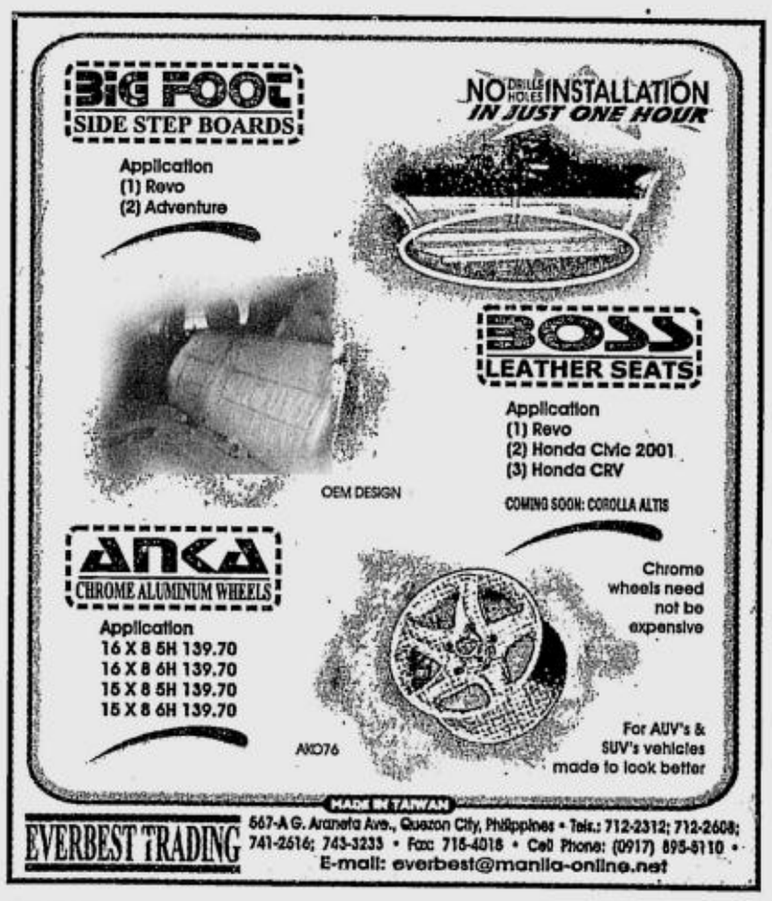
According to him, the Spurs were ready to dump free-agent center David Robinson if C-Webb would agree to transfer to Alamo City for less money. Perhaps unsure of Webber's real intention, San Antonio eventually backed off and gave in to the contract demands of Robinson, inking the 'Admiral' to a two-year, $20-million pact, which was far more than the Spurs' supposed final offer of $5 million a year.

Indiana was an attractive destination because of Webber's respect and affection for Pacers coach Isiah Thomas. Yet the courtship was futile since the Pacers only had the $4.5 million mid-level salary cap exception available and Webber obviously was looking for the financial max. Besides, his lone meeting with Thomas was not exactly cozy.

Webber wanted to play in a major media market—a source of megabucks bounty with its commercial endorsement prospects—and New York was in the running early in the free-agent race until the Knicks decided to put their marbles on guard Allan Houston with a $100-million reward.

Nowhere to go, Webber eventually returned to the Kings. However, the eight-year pro kept Sacramento management in the dark as to his decision for over a month, only contacting club officials when all of his other options were gone.

Now, fans are further disheartened to know that Webber won't be available for action until mid-December. Webber suffered a high left ankle sprain during the Kings' Oct. 14 exhibition game against the Dallas Mavericks.



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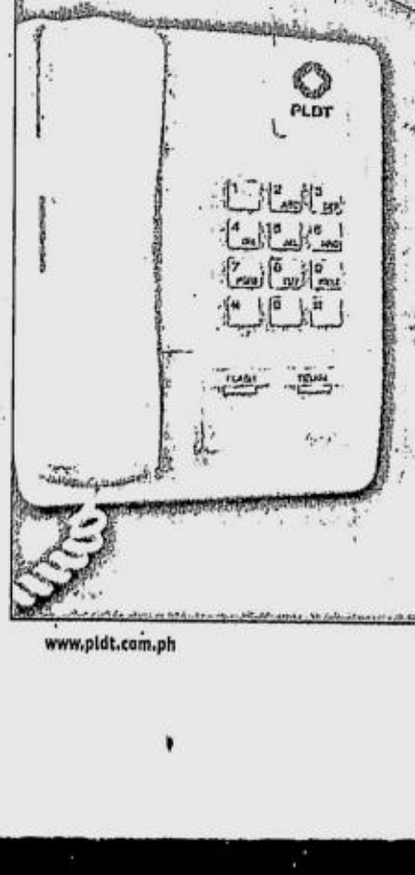

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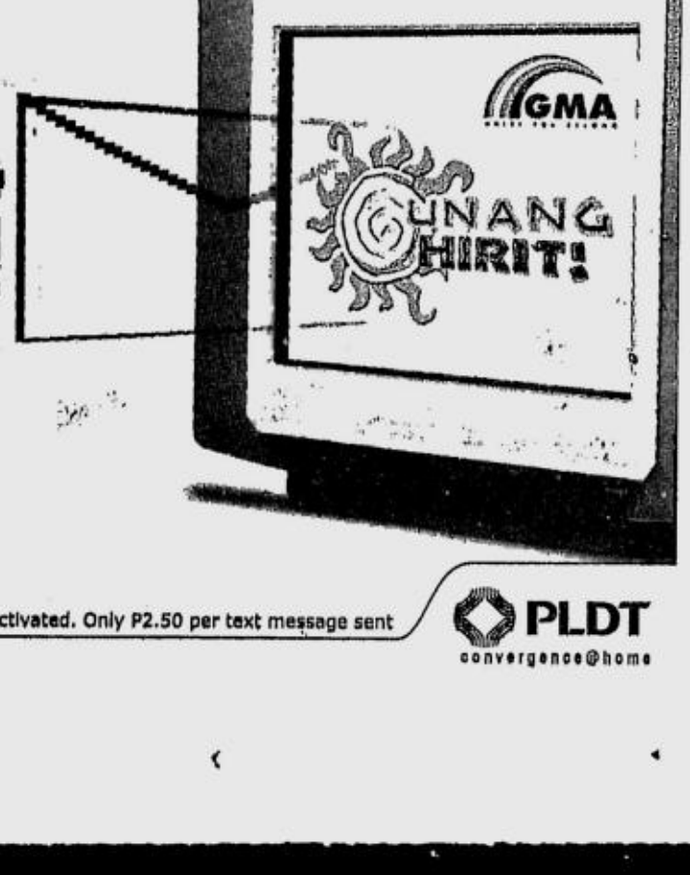

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Gov't plans to use Bataan nuke power plant land as Metro dump

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO AND TONETTE OREJAS,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE GOVERNMENT is considering the possibility of converting the land surrounding the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Morong town into a landfill, according to Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr.

Earlier, the 620-megawatt BNPP was being considered for conversion into a gas-fired power plant.

Development of the land surrounding the mothballed $2.1-billion nuclear complex into an ecotourism destination was another option being considered.

Morong, one of the less populated towns of Bataan, is most accessible through the back gates of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Last August, Perez himself said that the property was a likely location for a liquefied natural gas terminal.

But last week, the Energy Secretary said a garbage dump is now being considered because "(President Macapagal-Arroyo) is keen on fixing the garbage problem very quickly."

He said it was likely that there would be a landfill, but that he hoped some kind of a waste-to-energy project could be installed in Bataan.

On Wednesday, BNPP manager Emmanuel Sotomil confirmed plans that vacant lots within the BNPP would be used as a temporary dumpsite for Metro Manila's garbage.

He said there were "ongoing coordination between the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Finance, which oversees the disposal of assets of the nuclear project.

"Nothing is final yet," Sotomil said in a telephone interview from Morong.

He declined to give further details but said it was best if the MMDA talked about its plan.

Earlier, a top government official in Bataan alerted the **Inquirer** about the MMDA's use of the BNPP site as a dumpsite.

The source, who asked not to be named, said MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos had relayed to him the proposal.

The source said Abalos went to Bataan last Monday to seek an audience with Bataan Archbishop Honesto Ongtiongco.

Ongtiongco is said to be staunchly opposing the plan to dispose of Metro Manila's garbage anywhere in Bataan.

The archbishop was not available for a meeting with Abalos.

The source said the BNPP would be used on a short term, until the construction of a landfill in Tanawan Point, located between Bagac and Mariveles towns, is completed.

Jonathan de los Reyes, spokesperson for the church-based Mariveles Laban sa Basura ng Kamaynilaan, said fisher folk in Morong, Bagac and Mariveles are on alert to monitor the entry of garbage in their towns.

"Local communities would take action," De los Reyes said. "Expect a Semirara-kind of protest here."

TRASH HEAPS like this one on Mascardo Street in Makati City might grow smaller if the Bataan dumpsite is used for Metro Manila garbage. ERIK ARAZAS

Earlier, Representatives Antonino Roman and Enrique Garcia had expressed opposition to MMDA's plan to bring Metro Manila's trash to Bataan.

On Oct. 13, Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman said there was no dumpsite available in the province for Metro Manila's trash.

Roman said that while Bataan is more than willing to help solve the garbage problem in Metro Manila, the province was not yet ready to host an environment-friendly dumpsite.

He said that as early as two years ago, he had created a body to conduct a study on the establishment of an ecological waste management facility in Bataan.

"This facility will also be made available for the garbage of neighboring provinces and Metro Manila if and when it is ready," Roman said.

The BNPP was built using a $2.1-billion foreign loan in 1977. It was the single largest foreign debt incurred during the Marcos regime and the biggest loan anomaly in the country.

Controversy surrounding the loan, which was said to have brought former President Marcos and his cronies $80 million in kickbacks, and the overpriced cost of the BNPP's lone reactor halted the project.

Located 165 kilometers from Manila, the plant, which has a pier, is three hours away by sea from Pier 18 in Manila, where garbage would be transported by barges.

The BNPP has not produced any electricity since its construction 23 years ago. It has remained idle since the Aquino administration closed it down because of concerns on public safety.

The plant was supposed to have been permanently closed last December after the DOF sold its major assets like two steam generators, according to then BNPP project manager Eugenio Paran.

A handful of nuclear engineers and maintenance personnel, including some 50 guards, are securing the BNPP. The BNPP is fully fenced and no squatters have managed to construct houses within the site.

The mothballed plant is also said to be costing the national government P2 billion a year.

Crisis solved by February, says Malonzo

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A MULTIMILLION-PESO segregation plant would be built in Caloocan City to solve the festering garbage problem in the city by February 2002, according to Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo.

"This is a big gamble on our part, but we are willing to take the risk if only to help the national government solve the (garbage) crisis," Malonzo yesterday told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

By next month, construction of the segregation plant would begin in an undisclosed location to process the city's 500-ton daily garbage output, Malonzo said.

He refused to reveal where the plant would be built to prevent residents in the area from "complaining even before the project is realized."

The project's fund would be mainly sourced from the local government's calamity fund worth not less than P50 million, the mayor said.

The project would also receive a monthly subsidy from the national government, he added.

Malonzo said Metro Manila mayors have been working overtime to beat the deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the implementation of concrete solutions to the garbage crisis.

MALONZO

Earlier, the President asked all the Metro Manila mayors to solve the garbage problem in the metropolis by Christmas.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos had declared a "state of emergency" in all cities and towns to enable local governments to tap into their calamity funds to solve the garbage crisis.

Mayors were also made accountable for the garbage situation in their areas.

Malonzo, who had been perennially blaming barangay officials for the garbage crisis in Caloocan, welcomed Abalos' announcement.

'We want lethal injection for our daughter's killers'

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

"IF we can have our way, we would want lethal injection for those who killed our daughter."

Bus driver Juan Pudadera, his voice cracking, said this when he came face to face with one of the killers of his only daughter Joan.

"Justice, we want justice for our daughter," was all his wife Isabelita could say.

Last Friday, the Pudadera couple finally got the wheels of justice rolling when policemen arrested one of Joan's suspected killers, Armando Polillio.

Polillio, 22, admitted to stabbing the computer science sophomore student on July 2 after Joan refused to let go of her knapsack containing, among other things, her day-old Nokia 3210 cell phone.

An only child, Joan was the apple of the eye of her parents. For her 18th birthday, she had pleaded with them to gift her with a cellular phone.

They did, but it took Juan many months to save part of his wages to buy his daughter's long-awaited gift.

Joan finally got what she wanted when she turned 18 on July 1.

But Polillio, a self-confessed drug dependent, and his two friends attacked Joan and killed her after she refused to let go of her cellular phone.

"I didn't mean to do it," Polillio told the INQUIRER at the Central Police District headquarters in Camp Karingal. "My friends stabbed her first so I joined them in stabbing her. It was an accident."

Though he denied that he was on drugs at the time of the attack, Polillio admitted he was a regular user of shabu.

A sachet of the prohibited drug was found on him when policemen arrested him in Purok 1A, Luzon Avenue in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City.

Polillio said he and his friends sold Joan's phone for only P2,000 and split the money among themselves.

Police said Polillio, who had earlier been jailed also for robbery, belonged to the dreaded Sigue-sigue Sputnik gang.

Friday, he was charged with robbery with homicide and violation of Republic Act No. 6425.

Peñalosa, just like Luisito Espinosa, isn't retiring yet

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(FAREWELL: Flowers and prayers for my dear, departed compadre Wency Malabanan of Lipa City. Wency, 60, a great gentleman weaned in that pleasant mountain side of Batangas, lies in state at the St. Alphonsus di Liguori Church in Magallanes Village, Makati. He will be interred at the Lipa Catholic Cemetery after the 9 a.m. Mass at the San Sebastian Cathedral on Tuesday.)

***

YOU'RE a great fan of Osama bin Laden? Then you would've celebrated the shattering loss suffered by Gerry Peñalosa in the hands of a horned Japanese terrorist in Yokohama last month.

Peñalosa, while refusing to resort to dirty tactics, was repeatedly fouled, gored, cut and pitifully bloodied with vicious head butts. As a result, Gerry ended up a purple mess. He was so crushed that his brothers had a hard time recognizing him at the end of the 12-round fight.

Seeing talented Gerry fail in another world title quest was like seeing a gem blasted to bits.

Yes, Peñalosa's folly was not unlike that of the great Felix Trinidad, whose thudding fall against the hitherto obscure Bernard Hopkins continues to be rued by countless fans of the Sweet Science. (Reader Teddy Reynoso, a boxing scholar, has dealt lengthily on the Trinidad tragedy but we have reserved space for that thesis, which also tackled the middleweight division, in a future column.)

Regarding Peñalosa, his manager, lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, had flown to Bangkok in a bid to market Gerry in the World Boxing Association convention held in the humid Thai capital earlier in the month.

Mr. Salud returned with no solid commitment, explaining that his bid to transfer his management of Peñalosa to Akihiko Honda, a prominent and respected Japanese promoter, did not prosper.

There was no deal. It turned out Honda also has in his stable world contenders in Peñalosa's same weight category.

***

Remember that Salud, before the mission in Yokohama, had vowed to quit as manager if Gerry failed in his last world title bid. And Peñalosa had sworn to hang his gloves if he did not regain his WBC 115-pound crown.

Salud, of course, would not want to junk Gerry like a rusty, wasted car. He had cared for the fighter as though he were his own son. This was the reason Salud went out of his way to secure what he thought would be the best possible arrangement for Peñalosa.

So, after negotiations with Honda bogged down, it had indeed seemed like the end of the road for Peñalosa.

But hold it. Just when we were about to give up, boxing expert Hermie Rivera called up on Saturday to break the news that Gerry, contrary to earlier fears, was not retiring.

And that Rudy Salud would stay on as manager to help Gerry chase the world crown in another prizefight backyard, the World Boxing Association (WBA).

***

Actually, before this development, it was reported that a prospective protest on the biased officiating in Peñalosa's loss to Matsumori Tokoyama in Yokohama would be tabled in the WBC convention slated in Pattaya, Thailand in early December.

This protest, if handled judiciously, could pave the way for a Peñalosa-Tokoyama rematch.

But without even considering the possibilities in the next WBC confab, Hermie Rivera said Peñalosa has agreed to stay inside the ring—with Salud as manager.

"The two had an emotional meeting, Gerry cried and Salud agreed to momentarily remain as manager," River, quoting Star columnist Quinito Henson, explained.

All Gerry had needed was an assurance that Salud would stay on, Hermie bared, and Peñalosa readily returned to the gym—his first since returning from his failed title bid in Yokohama.

Both manager and fighter also agreed to have Honda act as Peñalosa's business manager.

Now, the question here is: Would it be the WBC rematch or a prospective crack at the WBA 115-pound crown which Gerry would pursue?

***

As things stand, Rivera surmised, the situation favors a WBA title bid.

In fact, he added, a top WBA man, no less than Gilberto Jesus Mendoza, son of the WBA president, was in town to assure Salud that if top challenger Alexander Muñoz beats WBA junior bantamweight champion Celes Kobayashi early next year, he would decree the first defense to be against Peñalosa in Manila.

The young Mendoza, by the way, also happens to be the WBA Ratings Committee chair.

He has obviously been working double time to re-establish WBA's strength and popularity in Asia.

Anyway, as if this was not enough good boxing news, Rivera added that his former ward, Luisito Espinosa, deep in training in California, is bent on campaigning also in the WBA.

Espinosa, 34, was actually being lined up against a top International Boxing Federation talent, Lemont Pearson, in a junior lightweight clash.

But Hermie swore it's actually Derick Gainer, the current WBA featherweight champ, whom Espinosa is raring to fight.

And, although Espinosa now walks around at 135 pounds, a full-blown lightweight, Hermie said he's confident the former WBA bantamweight champion could trim down to the 126-pound featherweight requirement.

That, indeed, would be an ordeal for a fighter who's supposedly past his prime.

But Mr. Rivera, the way he explained the effort, did not sound like his adorable old friend Peter Lee trying to re-market an old joke.

Life term for rapist

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A 21-YEAR-OLD man was sentenced to life imprisonment for raping in April 2000 a 14-year-old girl he had been courting.

In a 12-page decision, Judge Lilia Lopez found Jomar Batinga, of Leveriza Street, Pasay City, guilty of raping the girl on April 22, 2000.

She also ordered Batinga to pay the girl P125,000 in damages.

The girl was a waitress in a canteen beside Batinga's house.

She told the court she was sleeping in the canteen when Batinga and his friends knocked at the door about 2 a.m. and ordered bowls of noodles.

She said that after Batinga and his companions finished eating, she went back to her room.

Batinga followed her inside her room and raped her at knifepoint, the girl said in her testimony.

She said Batinga threatened to kill her if she told anyone of the rape.

But after a week, the girl reported the rape to police.

'Imported terrorists' in Manila say police

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE WESTERN Police District (WPD) said it received information that "imported terrorists" as well as local ones have arrived in the capital.

"We continuously receive information that not only local but also imported terrorists are here (in Manila)," Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos, WPD director, said in a news conference.

But the WPD chief added that these reports are "still raw information" and that his men are still verifying them.

US intelligence agencies have tagged the local Abu Sayyaf group in southern Mindanao as among the most dangerous terrorist organizations in the world.

They have also linked the Abu Sayyaf to international terrorist Osama bin Laden's worldwide Al Qaeda terror network.

Recent reports said the Abu Sayyaf would attack Metro Manila, particularly the financial district of Makati, to divert attention as the military close in on their hideouts in southern Mindanao.

But police are not about to let the terrorists catch them with their pants down, Pasinos said.

"We are increasing police visibility," he said. "Admittedly, we are doing this because of the threats. But also, we are doubling our security measures as a preventive effort."

Pasinos said the heightened security is particularly true around vital installations in Manila, like the Pandacan oil depot and the US Embassy along Roxas Boulevard.

He said police presence at the US embassy was increased after the United States began bombing Afghanistan to flush out and destroy Bin Laden's terror network.

"Though they are still small (in the number of participants), there have been many mass actions in front of the embassy," Pasinos said.

He added that he is also in favor of arming barangay security officials, "if the situation gets out of hand."

But he quickly added that strict and clear regulations should be formulated first before the government arms civilian volunteers in the capital.

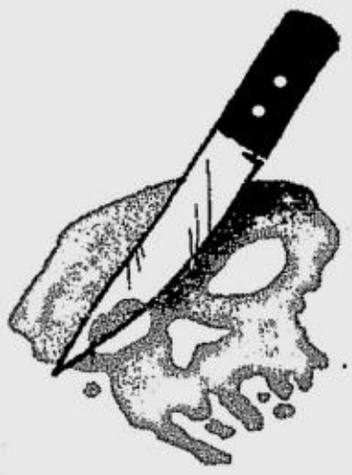
Metrobriefs

Father, sons kill neighbor

NAVOTAS police are hunting down Laklak Kantong, 40, and his sons Laklak Jr. and Jun-Jun for allegedly killing neighbor Raul Caparas. Police said Caparas, of Santiago Compound on Marcelo Street in Sitio Sto. Nino, R-10, Barangay North Bay Boulevard, South Navotas, died from two gunshot wounds and hack and stab wounds in the head and body. The older Kantong was arguing with Caparas when he pulled out a handgun and shot Caparas in the thigh and arm, a witness told police. Caparas still managed to run, but Kantong and his two sons chased him. They caught up with Caparas, stabbed and hacked him to death and escaped, police said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Slain over GRO



A FIGHT over a nightclub guest relations officer (GRO) led to the death of factory worker Jonathan Villanueva, 33, of Leonio Street in Barangay Tanong, Malabon City on Saturday. Villanueva died from a stab wound in the nape, police said. His friend Zaldy Solis, 33, of Goro Street in Navotas, was in critical condition at the Tondo Medical Center for stab wounds in the face, arms and legs. Police are hunting down Fernando Soriano, of Barangay San Agustin, Malabon, for the killing and stabbing inside Almar Videoke Bar on Leonio Street in Tanong.

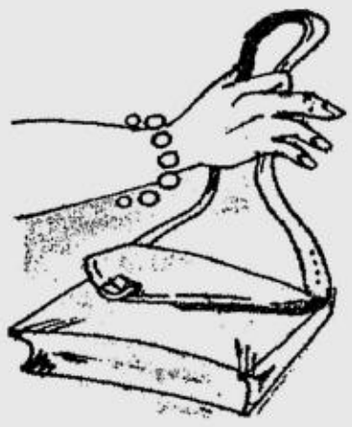
Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Shot dead by mistake

SECURITY guard Romeo G. Fuentes got too jittery and shot painter Ernesto I. Paragas III whom he mistook for a thief in Tondo, Manila. SPO1 Virgo Villareal, of the Western Police District homicide, said a Boy Santos fought with Paragas and chased him up to the Manutoc Compound in Tondo, shouting "Thief, thief!" Fuentes, of Pampanga Street in Tondo, heard the shouts and shot Paragas in the head and body. Fuentes fled when he realized his mistake, police said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Woman's life for her valuables



TO SAVE her valuables from alleged robber Manuel Garcia, Henie Duragos jumped off a running United Workers' Transport Corp. bus near SM City North Edsa and died from the fall on Friday. Police said Duragos was on board the Baclaran-bound bus when Garcia allegedly held up another bus passenger, Lorena Caballero. Duragos appeared to have panicked and jumped off the bus, police said. She was pronounced dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center. A mob caught Garcia and turned him over to the Central Police District.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Beaten to death

JEALOUSY drove Rogelio Cacenas to beat to death his live-in partner Lourdes Cabanes, 22, in Quezon City. Cacenas and Cabanes, both of the same address in Barangay Old Balara, Quezon City, were fighting over their marital and financial problems when the fatal beating happened about 7 p.m. Wednesday, said Chief Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit-homicide section. At the height of their fight, Cacenes began throwing punches at Cabanes until she fell and hit her head on the floor, police said. Cabanes died about 8 a.m. Thursday at the East Avenue Medical Center.

Philip C. Tubeza

450 left homeless

NO ONE was reported dead or injured in a four-hour fire that razed a crowded area in Quezon City on Saturday. But 450 families were left homeless. Fire fighters said the blaze, which started in the house of Ningning Monteguado, spread fast because the houses were made of light materials. An overheated air conditioning unit triggered the fire, authorities said.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Old trick works

A GLIB-TONGUED robber talked the maids of businessman Andres C. Chungco into handing over to him US$900, HK$6,000 and assorted jewelry. Chungco, of Green Meadows, Quezon City, lost to the suspect cash and jewelry worth about P1 million, police said. The maids, Arsenia Tembilaga, 18, and a 17-year-old maid, told police the suspect, who pretended to be a lawyer, called up the residence about 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and said Chungco had been hurt in a vehicular accident. Tembilaga said the man told her to get the money and jewelry from Chungco's bedroom and bring them to Caloocan City. She told police the man's story was so dramatic and convincing that she followed his instructions. But she could not remember the address in Caloocan where she met the suspect and handed him the cash and jewelry. Police are not discounting the possibility that the two maids were involved in the robbery.

Philip C. Tubeza

GREEN CONTEST
Rep. Cynthia Villar distributes cleaning implements to residents of Bernabe Compound in Barangay Pulang Lupa I, Las Piñas to kick off the competition for the cleanest and greenest barangay in the city.

MENDIOLA 'MASS' ERIK ARAZAS
"Running priest" Robert Reyes (left) led a prayer rally, which included a ritual for peace, on Mendiola near Malacañang last Friday.

'Johnny Wilson' nabbed for drugs

UNFORTUNATELY for movie actor and Makati Councilor Johnny Wilson, who once was a Makati vice mayor, Pasig police on Saturday arrested a namesake of his for selling drugs.

Insp. Dominador Raymundo, chief of the warrants and subpoena section of the Pasig police, said suspect Wilson, 38, married and a resident of Barangay Bambang, Pasig City, was arrested in his house for selling drugs together with his wife.

The suspect was still asleep when police came around 6:30 a.m. He did not resist arrest after police showed him a warrant of arrest issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court Judge Jose Hernandez of Branch 158.

Wilson and his wife Winnie had been under close surveillance for some time after police determined that they were selling shabu in their area. Wilson's wife was not home at the time of his arrest.

Police said they received information from residents in the area about Wilson's drug deals.

The suspect was detained by the Pasig police while his wife was being tracked down.

Alcuin Papa

Cattle rustlers bagged in Rizal

THOU shall not steal thy neighbor's cows.

Four suspected cattle thieves learned this lesson when they were caught on Friday stealing their neighbor's cow in Baras, Rizal.

Police arrested Roberto Ampuan, 29; Christopher Saluy, 32; Teodoro Seisicoral, 27; and Diego Badedomar, 33; all residents of Barangay Pinugay in Baras, for allegedly stealing the cow of Florence Paredes. The cow was supposed to have been slaughtered in a nearby barangay, police said.

Paredes told police she heard her cow mooing and saw the four men struggling to lead the animal away from its pen. But the bewildered cow gave the men a hard time and Paredes enough time to report the theft to police.

Police caught the suspects with the cow, which was returned to Paredes.

Baras police chief Senior Insp. Ricardo Morada said they were trying to determine if there were other unreported incidents of cattle thefts in the town and if the suspects were also responsible for them.

Nelson F. Flores

Atienza unrolls tissue or 'tabo' plan for Manila

IF MANILA Councilor Kim Atienza could have his way, every toilet in all business establishments in the city would have a roll of tissue paper or *tabo* (water scoop) for the convenience of their users.

Atienza, Manila City council president pro tempore, filed an ordinance requiring "all owners/operators of all kinds of business establishments (to) provide at all times tissue paper as part of good service and convenient rest room facilities for their clients."

"Providing tissue paper or *tabo* in rest rooms is a part of good public service," he said. "It will also help us all practice personal things in a hygienic and convenient way."

Atienza, son of Mayor Lito Atienza, said this "added feature" should be free of charge.

Many malls in Metro Manila have toilet paper for their patrons, but it is sold from vending machines for P1 per packet.

Still, toilets in many other buildings and commercial centers in Manila do not offer this service, Atienza noted.

He said the city would withhold the business permits of firms that do not comply with the toilet paper ordinance.

Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 22, 2001
29th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Rom 4:20-25
Gospel: Lk 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus, "Master, tell my brother to share with me the family inheritance." He replied, "My friend, who has appointed me as your judge or your attorney?" Then Jesus said to the people, "Be on your guard and avoid every kind of greed, for even though you have many possessions, it is not that which gives you life."

And Jesus continued with this story, "There was a rich man and his land had produced a good harvest. He thought: 'What shall I do? For I am short of room to store my harvest.' So this is what he planned: 'I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones to store all this grain, which is my wealth. Then I may say to myself: My friend, you have a lot of good things put by for many years. Rest, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him: 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you; tell me who shall get all you have put aside?' This is the lot of the one who stores up riches instead of amassing for God."

Commentary

A man consults Jesus about a problem of inheritance. Social legislation was part of Jewish religious law. So, the religious teacher was the authority to handle such questions. But Jesus is new and better. He has not come as a judge for social reform. Then he shifts the thought to the value of true life from that of material possessions. The theme of ambition continues with another rich man. Luke was writing to a community in a Graeco-Roman city in which, 'to eat, drink, and be merry" was the ideal life aimed at by all its citizens. Christians have a higher ideal in gift-giving, spiritual equality, and service to others. Life is not a matter of what we have; it is who we are or what we become.

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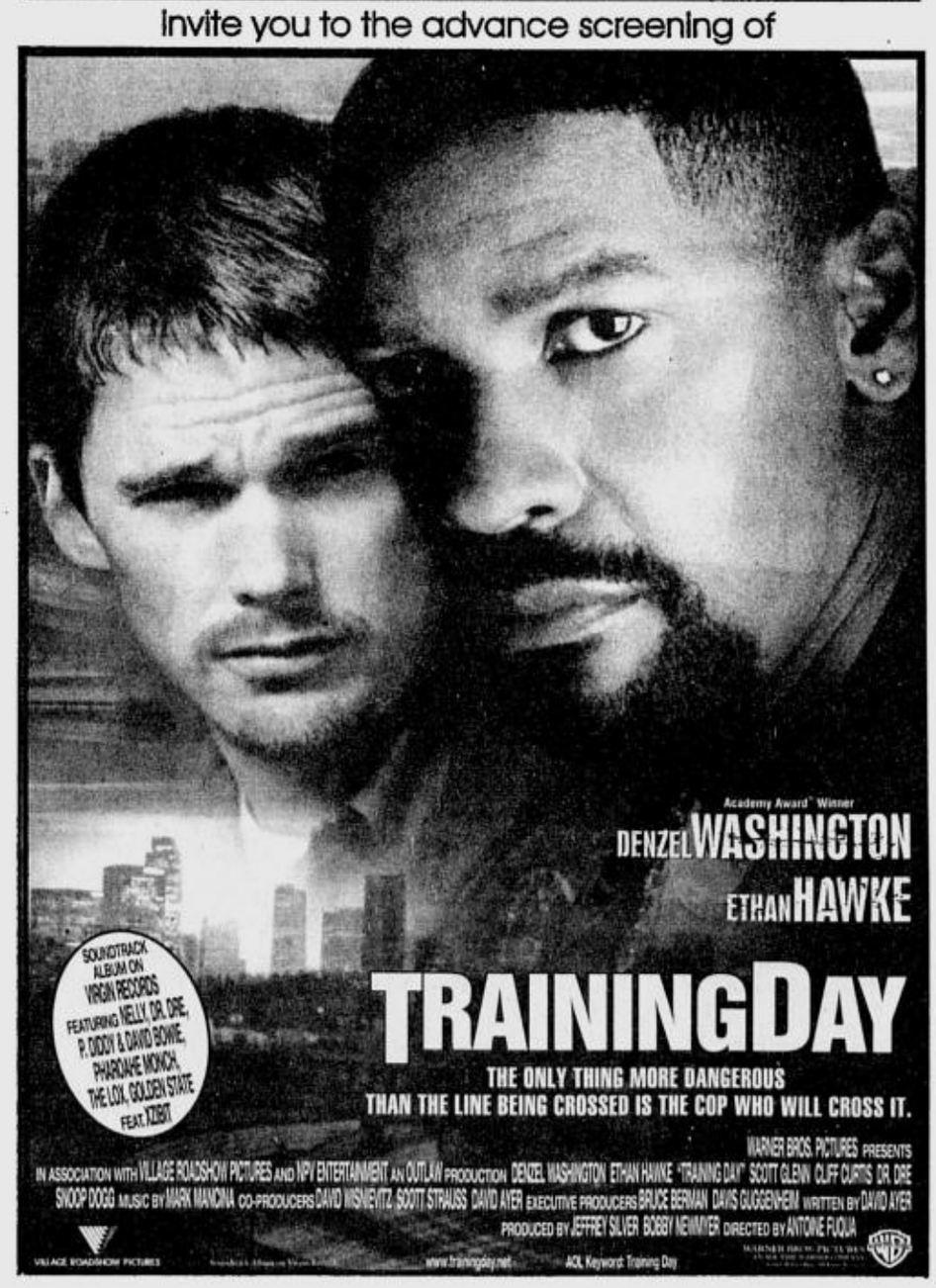

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OPENS OCT. 24

RP, Malaysian groups promote tourism

BY JEROME ANING

PHILIPPINE and Malaysian travel associations last week signed in Makati City a memorandum of understanding on tourism promotions and promised to cooperate in bringing more tourists to both countries amid the global gloom caused by the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Malaysia's minister of culture, arts and tourism Datu Abdul Kadin bin Sheik Fadzir witnessed the signing between the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents and the Philippine Travel Agencies Association at the Hotel Inter Continental.

MATTA president Tunku Dato Seri Iskandar bin Tunku Abdullah and PTTA president Ricky Ordonez signed the memorandum for their associations.

"With this agreement, the dynamic energies of our countries' private sector will be harnessed to enable increased visitor traffic between our countries as well as to entice more foreigners to come to our lands," Gordon said.

He said the Philippines and Malaysia should take advantage of their "natural closeness."

Kadir said it is the duty of travel operators "to work hard in promoting our tourism industries." He expressed optimism that MATTA members would not have difficulty in promoting Philippine travel packages.

In an open forum, Kadir asked Gordon to help Malaysian Airlines seek more flights to and from the Philippines.

PTAA members, meanwhile, sought for lower airfares to encourage tourists.

Gordon and Kadir said the involvement of their countries' travel trade sectors is among the steps being taken to implement an earlier MOU they signed during President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Malaysia last August.

The six-point agreement basically seeks to bring more Filipino tourists to Malaysia and more Malaysian tourists to the Philippines.

The meeting is the first of a series of meetings between MATTA and PTAA to flesh out the areas of cooperation specified under the MOU. The two groups formed a joint action committee to implement the plans concerning, among others, accessibility, products and promotions.

MATTA and PTAA agreed to facilitate the exchange of visits by tourists of the two countries and ensure the arrangement for travel of these tourists through their member travel agencies.

They also agreed to facilitate tourism promotional materials and other tourism information, including government policies regarding tourism development and investment opportunities.

The two associations would also work together to identify and seek ways to address problems that deter tourism growth and development in their countries.

PTAA and MATTA members will also be encouraged to participate in travel marts, exhibitions and other tourism events in the two countries.

Manila should stop Mehan construction, says ex-mayor Lopez

FORMER Manila mayor Mel Lopez called on Mayor Lito Atienza to heed the growing clamor for a stop to the construction of the proposed City College of Manila (CCM) and the Park N Ride parking facility in Mehan Garden.

Lopez joined the call for the preservation of the Mehan Garden and its environs after Atienza defied environmental protection advocates and ignored a cease and desist order issued by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

"As former city mayor of Manila, I join environmentalists, conservationists and cause-oriented groups who are strongly protesting over the relocation of the City College of Manila to the Mehan Garden, a historical landmark and archeological site established in 1858 as a zoological and botanical garden better known as Jardin Botanico," Lopez said in a statement.

He said that during his term, Manila purchased the two-hectare DECS property on Arroceros Street for P67 million because of its historic value as part of the original Mehan Garden and turned it into a mini-forest and park. Lopez, who also served as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, said he supports the relocation of the CCM from the crammed former Philippine National Bank head office in Escolta, but to another location.

BEAUTIES AND THE MAYOR RANDY HORMILLOSA
Candidates in the Miss Earth environment-friendly international beauty pageant pay a courtesy call on Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who, his critics say, is not environment-friendly.

Marikina as 'Little Singapore'

MARIKINA City Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando wants to do to her city what Lee Kwan Yu did to Singapore—transform it into a business and cultural center.

She plans to institute economic and socio-cultural programs to make Marikina one of the country's premier industrial sites.

In a news conference last week, Fernando said the city government has also intensified its bid to revive the city's dying shoe industry to recapture Marikina's old glory.

Aside from, transforming Marikina into an industrial giant, Fernando also wants the city to become a center of arts, culture, tourism and sport.

"We in Marikina want to create an image of a businesslike and dynamic community to win investors' confidence," Fernando said.

The city government has launched the One Job One Family program to encourage construction companies and other business enterprises to tap the vast manpower potential of the city, she said.

The city has also undertaken a shoe caravan where local shoemakers are asked to visit other local and foreign government units during their fiestas and trade expositions to sell their products in a span of three or four days.

Fernando said this is her administration's attempt to promote the Marikina shoe industry in the local and foreign markets.

To complement the city's overall development program, Fernando said, the local government is also promoting its spiritual enhancement as a cultural center and a major tourist destination.

A bike-friendly city, Marikina enjoys funding from the World Bank and boasts of a 66-kilometer bike lane, which is currently under construction. *Nelson F. Flores*

Archives marks 100th anniversary

THE NATIONAL Archives of the Philippines, officially called Records Management and Archives Office (RMAO), yesterday marked 100 years of service to the public.

According to Director Rosalina A. Concepcion, RMAO maintains more than 15 million historical documents from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

Historians, writers, and scholars from different countries research on these documents while the general public request for certified copies of land titles, transfer certificates of title, birth, marriage and death records, court decisions and others.

Many books on Philippine history and culture have been produced by authors who have consulted archival files which give eyewitness accounts of various events in the past. Land and other court disputes have been resolved because of archival documentary evidence.

The RMAO time and again discovers unknown heroes who fought for Philippine independence.

Workshop seminars all over the Philippines are conducted by RMAO teams to train government records personnel on handling, storage and disposal methods. Regional offices in La Union, Cebu and Davao facilitate provincial transactions.

The centennial celebrations will be held today when a high-tech paper conservation and restoration laboratory and other support facilities will be formally turned over to the Philippine government by the Spanish government through Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja.

The laboratory, set up by the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional, facilitates the repair of paper artifacts damaged by temperature and humidity, insects and other causes.

Church, vaults to rise in Metro

THE SHORTAGE of burial grounds in and around the metropolis, their high prices, and the travel time that people have to endure to visit their departed loved ones are just some of the reasons why there is a need for an alternative burial place.

A partnership formed by 7RD Realty Inc. and Ross System International has found a solution—The Magnificat.

The Magnificat is a church and columbarium under one structure.

As a church, it will service the needs of the Catholic faithfuls of Metro Manila. As a columbarium, it will provide a resting place for the dead.

A columbarium is a structure of vaults that house human bones or ashes in urns. Instead of the traditional way of burying the dead in memorial parks, people have an option to either have their loved ones cremated or to transfer the remains of their departed to the columbarium.

"We would like to spare the living from stress, worry, and anxiety that are usually associated with death," 7RD Realty chair Rafael J. Dizon Jr. said.

He pointed out that in 1969, the Archbishop of Manila released a statement about cremation. It stated that the church views cremation with an open mind due to the exorbitant prices of traditional types of burial and their far locations.

In an industry survey conducted in 1999, it was found that Metro Manila has 18 crematoriums (up from 2 in 1992) and that more than 40 percent of the surveyed population favored cremation (up from 21 percent in 1992).

Each floor of the columbarium will have its own full service chapel. Novenas will be held in the chapels to honor special days of the year.

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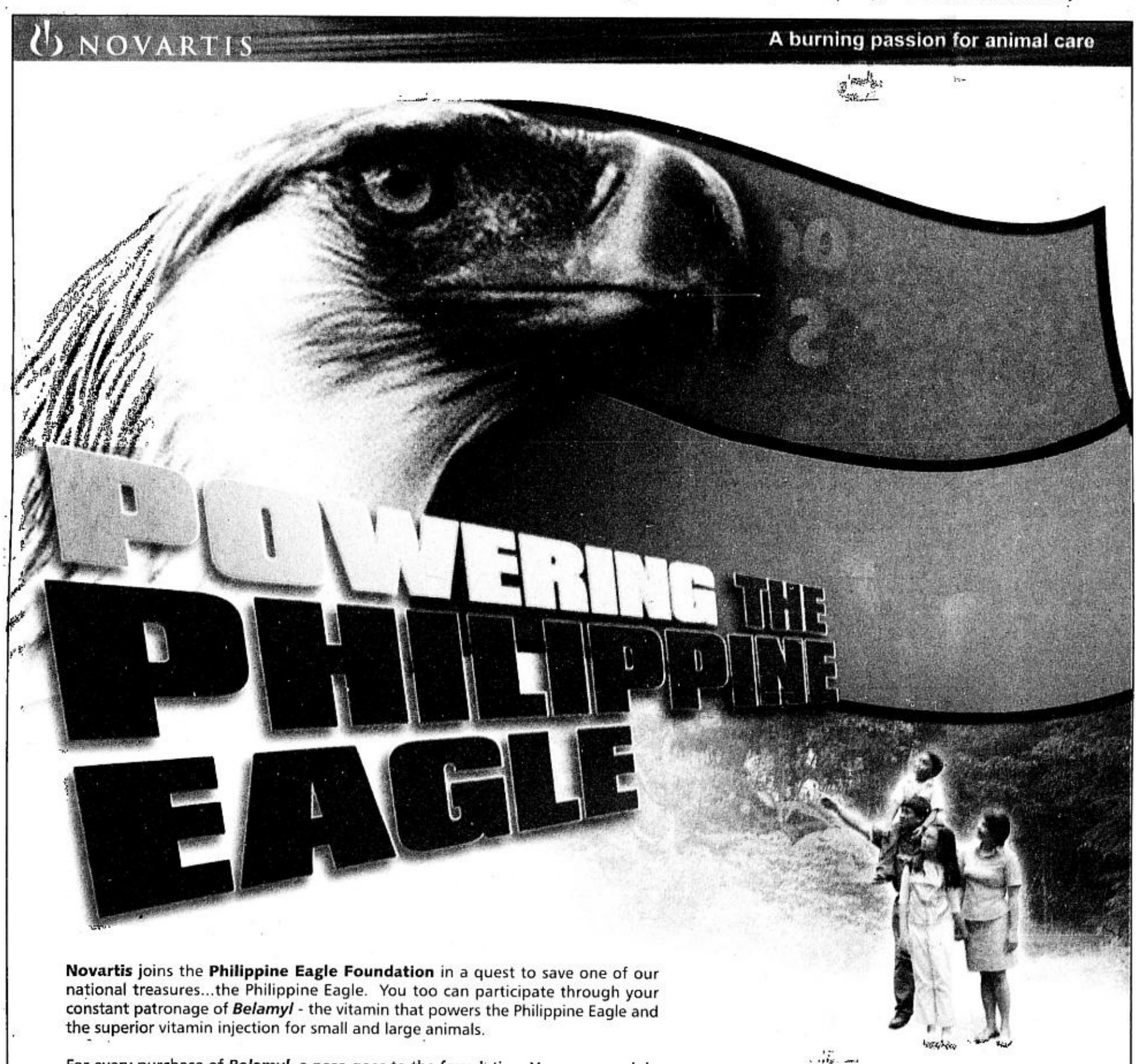

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AN INCIDENTAL INTERVIEW

Lamangan and Portes

LAMANGAN

PORTES

BY BIBETH ORTEZA

WE ARE a group of friends having *merienda* at the Shang Ti at the Shangri-La Towers in Edsa, in between screenings of the Cine Europa Film Festival. There is admiring talk about "Suzy Washington," the movie just screened, and then some.

Gil Portes, whose "Gatas" is representing the country in next year's Academy Awards Foreign Language category, is leaving for TITRA-Amsterdam to do subtitles. We fuss about him choosing our company over packing a suitcase on the eve of his departure. He insists he's there for the movies and not for us.

"You go to films festivals to watch?" I ask Portes, seated in front of me, and Joel Lamangan, who's on my right. Fellow Directors' Guild members Carlitos Siguion-Reyna and Mel Chionglo are at the farthest end of the table chatting with screenwriter Raquel Villavicencio, production designers Tatus Aldana and Egay Littaua.

"I go to watch, and learn," says Lamangan, whose "The Flor Contemplacion Story" will be honored this December as one of the best films in the world in Cairo, where it won Best Picture and Best Actress for Nora Aunor in 1995.

"A big number of really good films from all over gets shown only in film festivals."

Lamangan and Portes, friends of long standing and "also each other's best enemies," screened "Deathrow" and "Markova" at the Toronto International Festival last September. The invitation was Lamangan's fourth in Toronto, after "The Flor Contemplacion Story," "Pusong-Mamon" (co-directed with Eric Quizon), and "Bulaklak ng Maynila."

It was Portes' third, after "'Merika" and "Birds of Prey."

Pride

"A film festival is a great ego trip," Portes admits. He clarifies further. "You naturally feel good when your film is chosen because festival organizers give you a free round-trip ticket and hotel accommodations. But when I say ego trip I don't mean it as a director. I'm talking as a Filipino. It feels good, it makes you proud, to see people of various nationalities lining up to watch our movies and learn more about us, our culture."

"And they remember our films, *itong mga puting ito,*" Lamangan interjects. "They know the names of our filmmakers. They look for Carlitos, Mel, Peque (Gallaga), even *Tita* Midz (Armida Siguion-Reyna). They haven't forgotten 'Insiang,' the first Filipino film shown there, directed by Lino. Or 'Biyaya ng Lupa,' which they saw in black and white, without subtitles."

Portes, holder of a master's degree in television from the Brooklyn College (City University of New York, 1968), has over 20 films to his credit. His first film festival was in Hawaii in 1985, with "'Merika," a Nora Aunor starrer.

Scene maker

He recalls it was an exciting year for Asian directors. Chen Kaige showed "Yellow Earth," where Zhang Yimou was his cinematographer. Wayne Wang showed "Chan is Missing."

"My two screenings went well," says Portes. "Nora Aunor was popular, then. *Pero siguradong hindi nila ako makalimutan do'n. Nagulat sila sa halos hanggang-kisameng bagaheng dala ko.* Of course they didn't know those suitcases contained all that we could bring from Manila to New York. The family was en route to the US, where we had decided to migrate."

"*Naku, ganyan si* Gil, *magaling umeksena,*" teases Lamangan. "*Sa* Toronto, '*pag tawag sa kanya, umiika-ika papuntang harap. Palakpakan ang tao, akala nila,* handicapped, '*di nila alam, may* gout. *Sabay tingin sa mga nakaupo*, eyeball to eyeball: 'I have found my audience.' *Bongga talaga siya*!"

According to Portes, the Quizon brothers Eric and Jeffrey, producers and stars of "Markova, along with dad Dolphy, were pleasantly surprised by the Toronto audience' reaction to the film.

"The movie was ignored here in Manila, outside of the near-grand slam best supporting actor awards that Jeffrey got," Portes says. "So, *natuwa sila no'ng nakarinig ng* 'bravo!' The applause gave them the idea *na puwede, na may tsansang maipagbili ang* 'Markova' to a foreign audience."

Worthwhile

"And that's the real reason why we go to festivals," Lamangan stresses. "To expand our markets, to look for an audience outside of Manila, beyond Megamall, as Tita Midz used to say. To generate interest in Philippine cinema vis-à-vis the festival circuit, *para 'pag nakita ng mga* distributor *na* consistent *ang interes ng* audiences *sa* Filipino films, *na iba-ibang klaseng pelikula ang kaya nating gawin* every year, *na hindi lang isa ang magaling na* Filipino director *kundi isang grupo, isang* movement, *maisip nilang* it's worthwhile giving us commercial distribution worldwide.

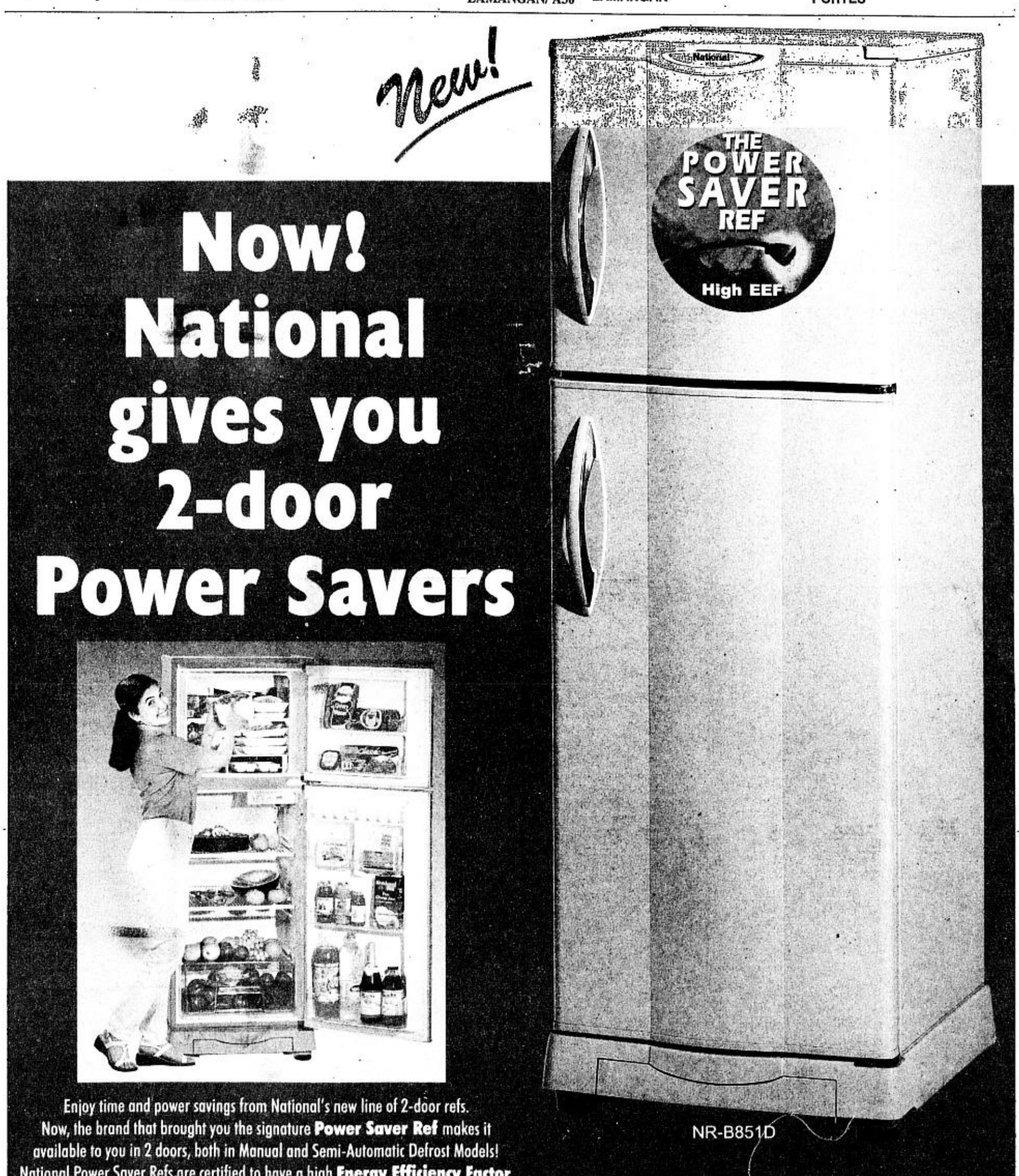
"We have to start somewhere," continues Lamangan, who has won awards from major award-giving bodies in the country for over half of his total output of 23 films, so far. "*Hindi puwede'ng maupo lang tayo rito na parang* Juan Tamad *na naghihintay mabagsakan ng bayabas sa bibig, 'no.* So what, if there are people who accuse us of taking film festivals seriously? Why shouldn't we take film festivals seriously, when we are still in the process of courting audiences the world over? *Ngayon pa ba tayo mag-iinarte,* with our box-office receipts at an all-time low?"

"*Ayan na, galit na si* Joel," says Portes, now enjoying the chance to take over with the ribbing. But Lamangan ignores him, as his wont when fired up. By this time the others are keen on our discussion.

Appreciation

"*Hindi rin tamang magturuan pa tayo o magpataasan ng ihi* over who gets invited to the bigger or smaller festival," Lamangan continues. "I think we should appreciate all festivals, big or small. There's reason to be proud if a festival in the mid-west of

LAMANGAN/ A30



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Lamangan and Portes

(From page A29)

America invites a Filipino film. *D'yos ko, hindi na* metropolitan cities *do'n, iyon na'ng mga lugar na naka*-blue eyeshadow *ang mga babae, nagnguguyaan lahat ng* bubble gum, *puro* freckles, *meron na silang ano na nga 'yon*, twang?"

A voice cuts in from the rear. "But aren't you guys accused of moving to stop a certain film from showing in Toronto?"

"That's impossible!" Lamangan and Portes chorus.

"No way," Siguion-Reyna and Chionglo agree.

"First, we found out that film had been submitted when we were already in Toronto," explains Lamangan. "Second, there is no film programmer who agrees to having others interfere with his choices. A film only gets in on its merits."

Subtitling

Like Portes and other directors who do festivals, Lamangan worries over the fate of the International Film Festival Committee, first chaired by Armida Siguion-Reyna and now by Marichu Maceda. The IFFCOM is under the Film Development Foundation. It was established under the administration of Fidel V. Ramos, adapted by Joseph Estrada, and likewise the present dispensation. It shoulders subtitling expenses and the airfare, lodgings and per diem of any four from among the writer, editor, cinematographer, sound person, production designer, film music composer, and actor.

Portes bewails subtitling costs anywhere from $4,000 to $5,000, everything included: a new film print, the subtitling itself, airfare, lodgings and per diem of the subtitling supervisor.

"The director is mostly taken care of by the inviting festival," he says. "But without government subsidy for subtitling, the producer can't do it. The quality of subtitling accounts for the great response Filipino films have been getting as of late."

"None of the films that went out this year sent complete delegations," Lamangan states. "We're not complaining, we understand the current economic situation, as we should. But this means a great deal to the improvement of the quality of the work of our filmmakers, not only directors, but writers, cinematographers, production designers, editors, etcetera.

"The IFFCOM is really an investment toward cracking the international market, *kaya sana mai-pagpatuloy ito nang walang kinikili-ngang kahit sino lalo na ngayong inalis ng gobyerno ang* movie industry *sa listahan ng* investment priorities plan."

Tomorrow

"I'm going to the Pusan Festival late October," says Lamangan, the 47-year-old PETA stalwart. "'Deathrow' is showing there, and in Cairo, too, come December. I've been in the feature film jury in Cairo, and Brussels. *Masaya'ng maging* jury *na mahirap, kahit may* jet lag *ka, hindi ka puwedeng aantuk-antok, mabubuko ka ng iba sa* deliberations."

Raquel reminds us it is time for the Danish film, "Bye-bye, Bluebird" and there is a rush to get the food bill. Lamangan playfully chides Portes: "*Ang* envelope *nitong nag*-interview *sa 'tin, ibigay mo na.*"

"Excuse me," Portes scolds Lamangan. "*Hindi iyan katulad ni* _____."

The area reverberates with laughter, and we all go to watch the movie. We see a long, long line of students wanting to get in: The filmmakers of tomorrow. They make our day.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Viewable films on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME readers have expressed their appreciation for our occasional viewing recommendations of promising films showing on TV. Thanks for the encouragement, and here is the update you've requested:

Monday, Oct. 22, HBO: 1:45 p.m., "Unforgiven." Cinemax: 9 p.m., "A Night at the Roxbury." Star Movies: 6:30 a.m., "Born Yesterday." 11:45 a.m., "Midsummer Night's Dream." 9 p.m., "Instinct."

Tuesday, Oct. 23, HBO: 6 a.m., "Dead in the Water." 2 p.m., "The Iron Giant." 9 p.m., "The Fugitive." Cinemax: 5:30 p.m., "Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." Star Movies: 4:30 a.m., "Blue Sky." 9 p.m., "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

Wednesday, Oct. 24, HBO: 4 a.m., "Midnight Run." 6 a.m., "Neil Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs." 9 p.m., "A Civil Action." 11 p.m., "The Whole Nine Yards." 7:30 p.m., "Groundhog Day" 11 a.m., "Cinema of the World: The Heirs of Luis Bunuel." 12 noon, "Angela's Ashes." Star Movies: 11 p.m., "Entrapment."

Thursday, Oct. 25, HBO: 2:30 a.m., "The Little Drummer Girl." 8 a.m., "American Movie." 9 p.m., "Three Kings." Cinemax: 2:45 p.m., "Riders of the Purple Sage." Star Movies: 6:15 p.m., "Anywhere But Here." 8:15 a.m., "The Beach." 7 p.m., "Billy Bathgate." 10:45 p.m., "Mickey Blue Eyes."

Friday, Oct. 26, HBO: 12:50 a.m., "Double Jeopardy." 2:15 p.m., "Analyze This." 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." Cinemax: 4 a.m., "The Prince and the Showgirl." 11:15 a.m., "Beetheljuice." 5:45 p.m., "The Truman Show." Star Movies: 11 p.m., "The End of Days."

Saturday, Oct. 27, HBO: 9 p.m., "Band of Brothers." 11:10 p.m., "Single White Female." Cinemax: 2 p.m., "Lawrence of Arabia." Star Movies: 2:45 p.m., "Runaway Bride." 5:15 p.m., "Thomas Crown Affair."

Sunday, Oct. 28, HBO: 11:30 a.m., "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels." 8 p.m., "The Godfather, Part III." Cinemax: 5 a.m. "Mallrats." 7:15 a.m., "My Girl." Star Movies: 7 p.m., "Never Been Kissed."

Monday, Oct. 29, HBO: 10 p.m., "Band of Brothers, 1 and 2." Cinemax: 3:30 a.m., "Romeo and Juliet." 9:15 a.m., "The Ten Commandments." Star Movies: 1:15 p.m., "Mystery, Alaska." 9 p.m., "He Got Game."

Tuesday, Oct. 30, HBO: 8:15 p.m., "Wild, Wild West." 10 p.m., "Band of Brothers, 3: Carentan." Cinemax: 12:15 a.m., "8MM." 11 a.m., "The Man Who Captured Eichmann." Star Movies: 9 p.m., "Air America." 11 p.m., "A Far-Off Place."

Wednesday, Oct. 31, HBO: 9 p.m., "Forever Young." Cinemax: 6 p.m., "This Is Spinal Tap." Star Movies: "Inspector Gadget."

Watchout in particular for "Unforgiven," "Born Yesterday," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Irion Giant," "Dr. Strangelove . . . ," "Analyze This," "Sleepy Hollow," "The Prince and the Showgirl," "The Truman Show," "Band of Brothers," "Laurence of Arabia," "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "The Godgather, Part III." Happy viewing!

New stars

THE HALLMARK Channel's "Snow White" and "Prince Charming" Updates and satires are top-billed by two outstanding young stars:

Kirstin Kreuk is introduced as Snow White, the princess whose charm and beauty endear her to everyone except the evil Queen Elspeth. The teenage actress was a member of the cast of the Canadian TV series, "Edgemont," She will also be seen regularly in the upcoming superman-based series, "Smallville."

Meanwhile, Prince Charming is played by **Sean Macguire**. An indiscreet prince, Macguire's character is doomed to live as a prince unless he finds his true love and marries her in time to break the spell.

Macguire has achieved success in his native England and played the lead in 1999's "Out of Depth." He has also appeared in numerous TV shows, including "EastEnders," "Danger-field" and "Sunburn."

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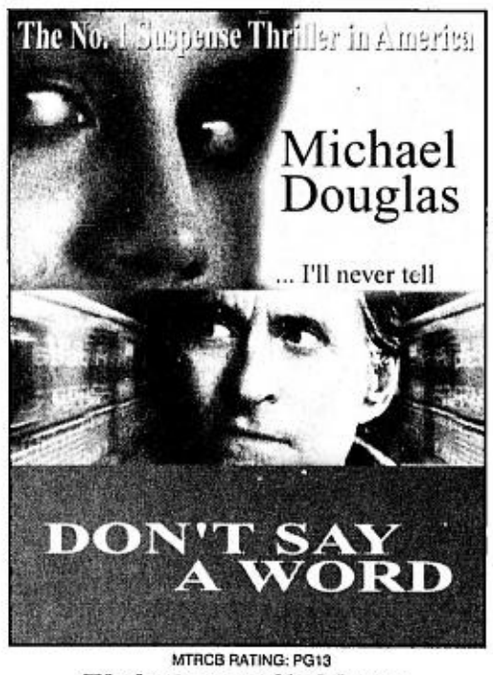

MTRCB RATING: PG13
Tickets available on
October 22 (Mon)
October 23 (Tue)
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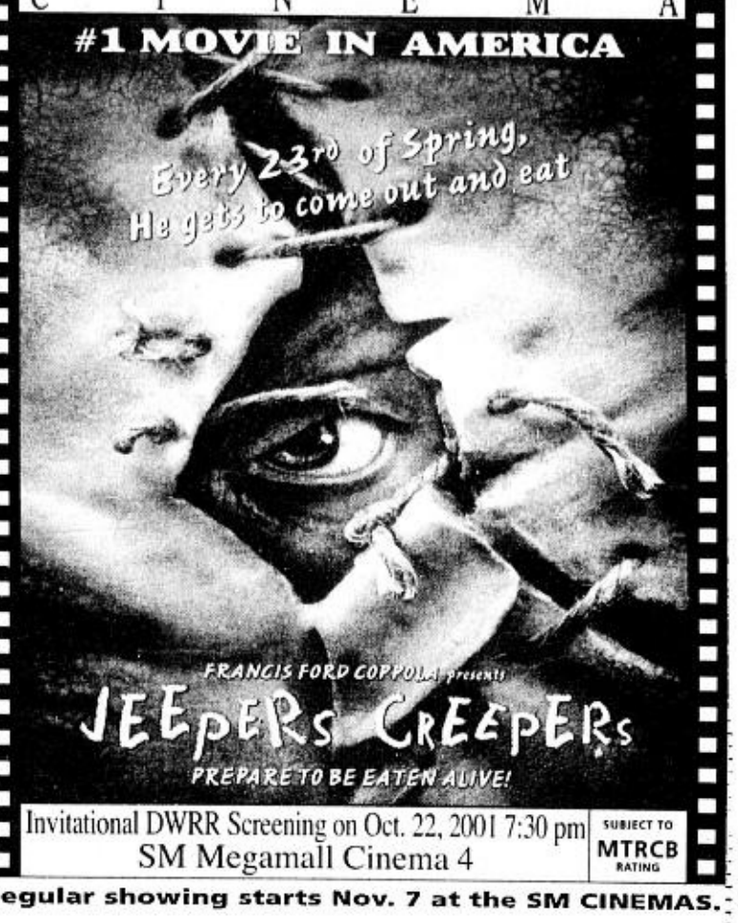

Invitational DWRR Screening on Oct. 22, 2001 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 4
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Regular showing starts Nov. 7 at the SM CINEMAS.

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THE BODY - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40

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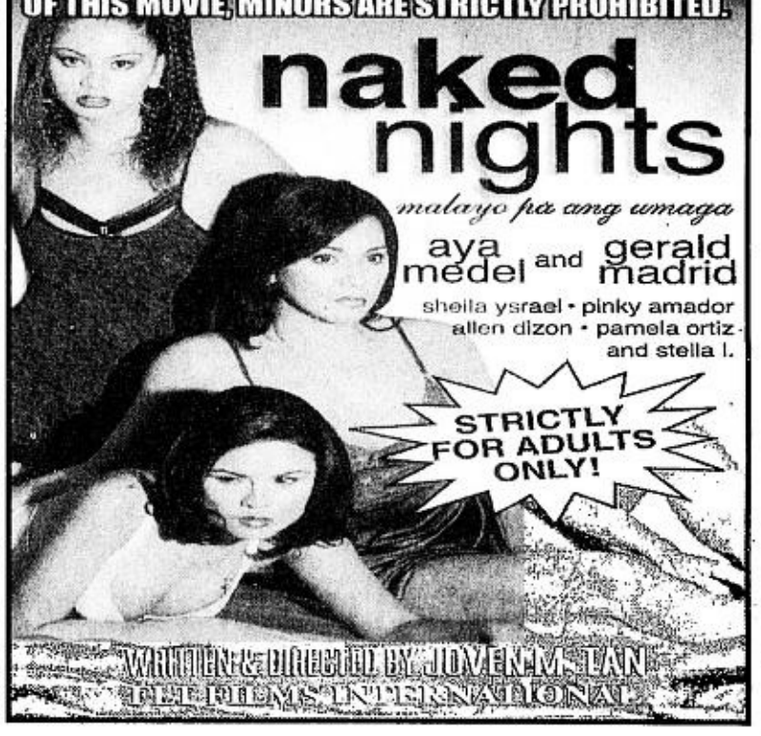

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PLUS! Join the LEGALLY BLONDE & Timezone Gold Card Launch Party featuring pop band Strawberry Fields on Oct. 26, 7pm @ Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby. Don't miss the fun because exciting prizes & surprises are at stake!
LEGALLY BLONDE (MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13), who stars Reese Witherspoon, opens @ Ayala Cinemas on Oct. 24!
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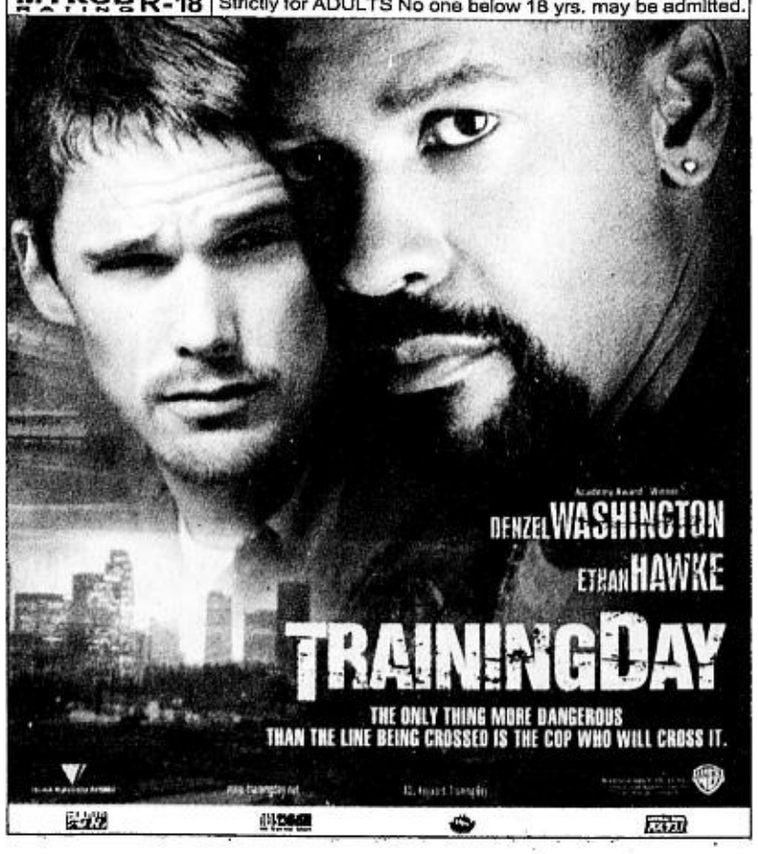
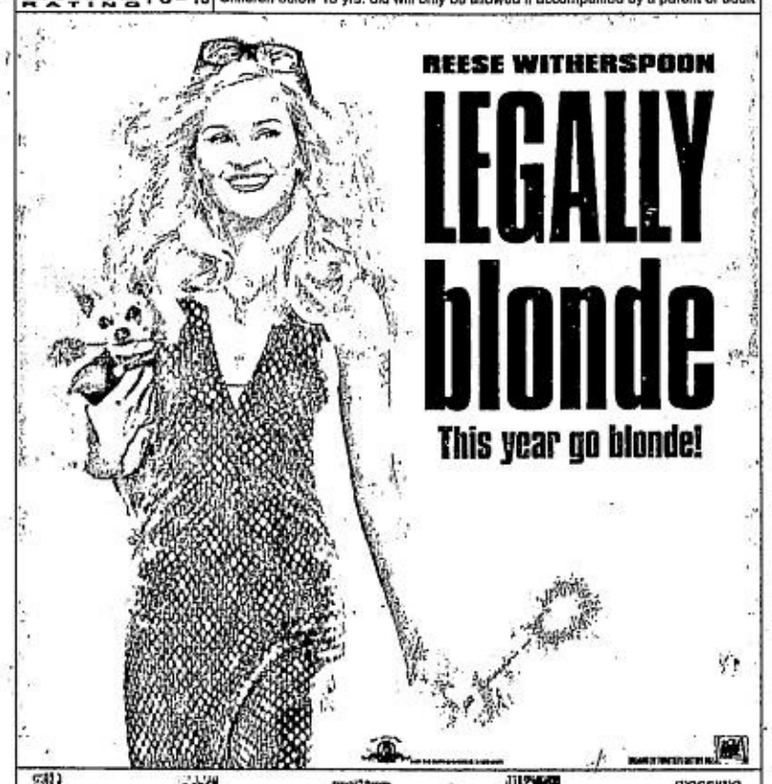


OPENS OCTOBER 24!
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


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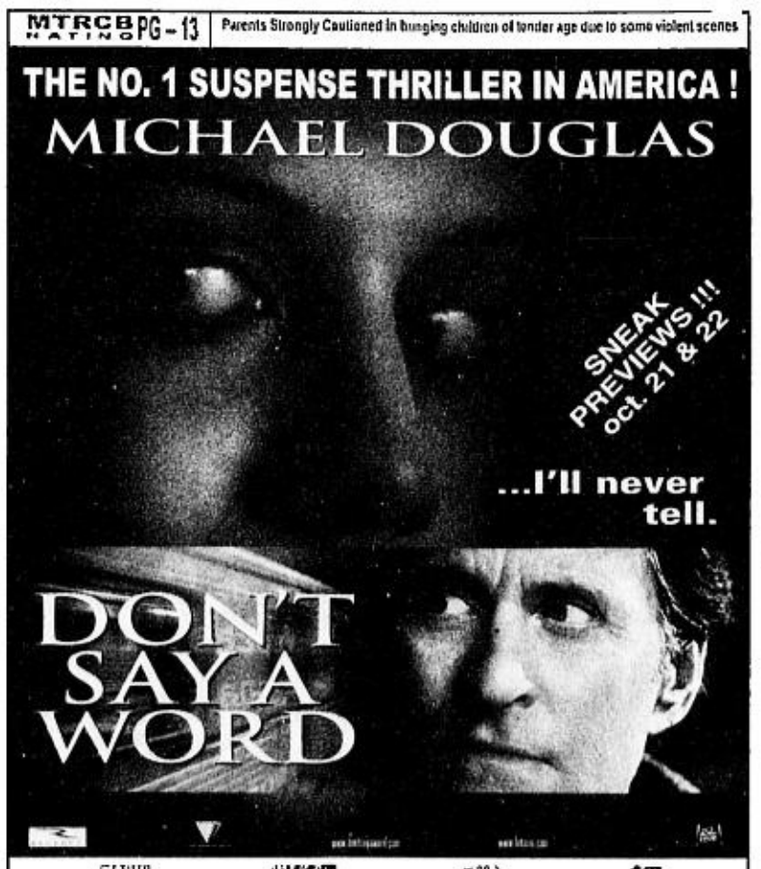

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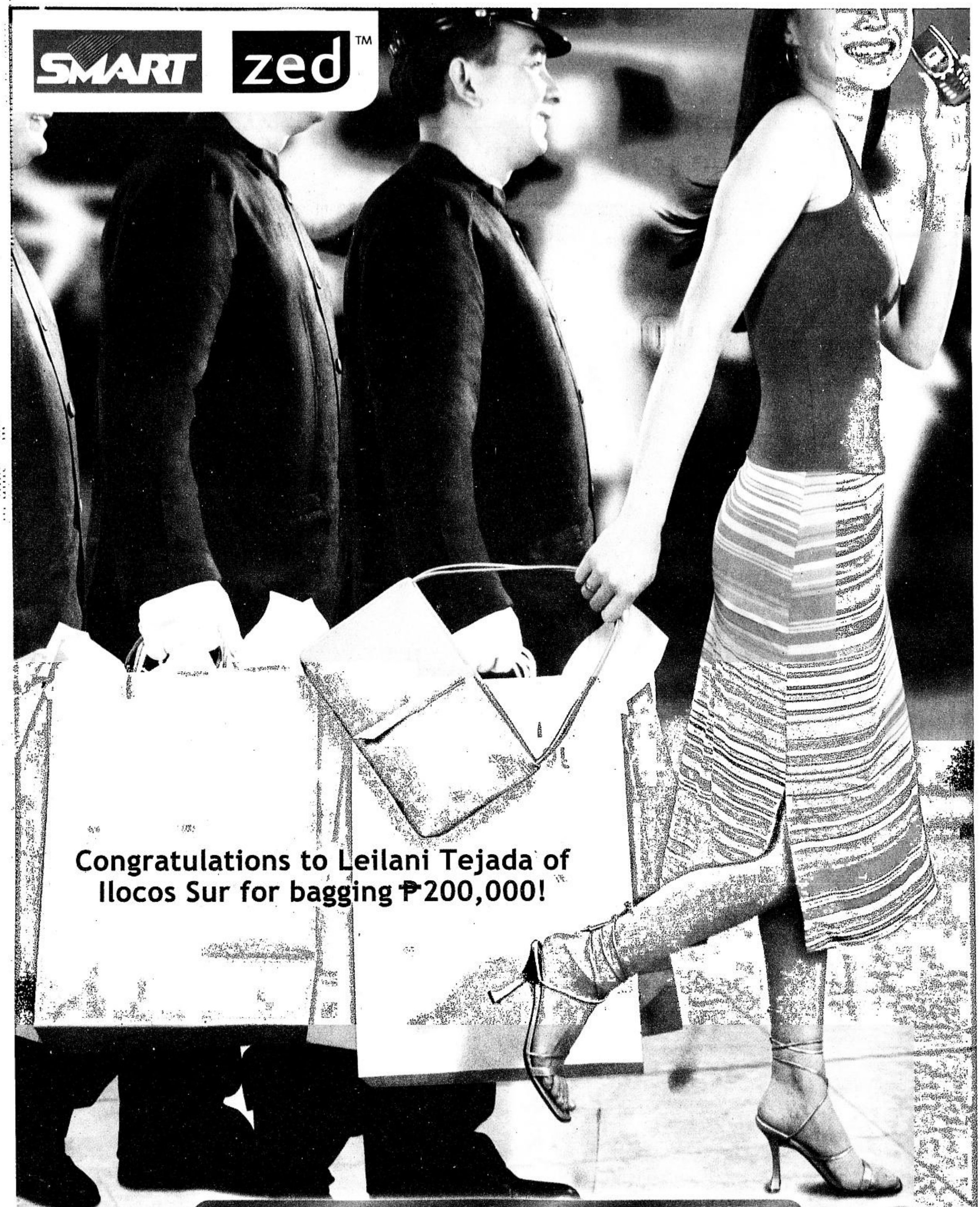
OPENS OCT. 31 AT THEATERS EVERYWHERE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BUSINESS

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Taiwan firm threatens pullout as Nissan labor row persists

Sky, Home drop Star TV

(Story on Page B8)

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

YULON Motor Co. Ltd., Taiwan's biggest automotive assembler and parts maker, is seriously considering to put the brakes on its assembly of Nissan vehicles in the country if its dispute with its union is not resolved despite government intervention.

An INQUIRER source said Yulon, which invested P1.2 billion into Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. in 1999, has become extremely apprehensive about the illegal strike that shut down its plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, last Oct. 1.

In a statement, NMPI vice president Val de Leon had warned that "considering the growing seriousness of the situation, management may have no choice but to consider other options to resolve this matter."

Although de Leon did not spell out NMPI's options, the source said a pullout by Yulon was among the few choices being reviewed by management.

NMPI claimed that even with the Department of Trade and Industry collaborating with the Department of Labor and Employment to reach a "fair solution" to the labor dispute two weeks ago, "matters have yet to come to a clear and final resolution."

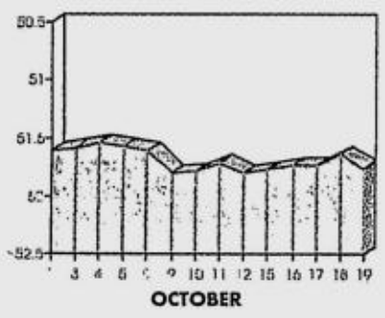
The dispute arose from a deadlock in negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement in July. NMPI claimed labor's demands were unreasonable as it noted that the company provided one of the best compensation packages in the industry. "Our workers should appreciate

TAIWAN/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

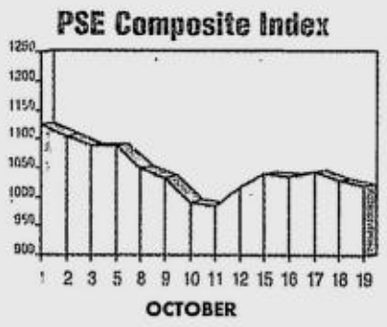
₱ 51.76 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 19, 2001

¥ 121.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 19, 2001

GOLD:$278.20/278.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 19, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Cautious trade seen

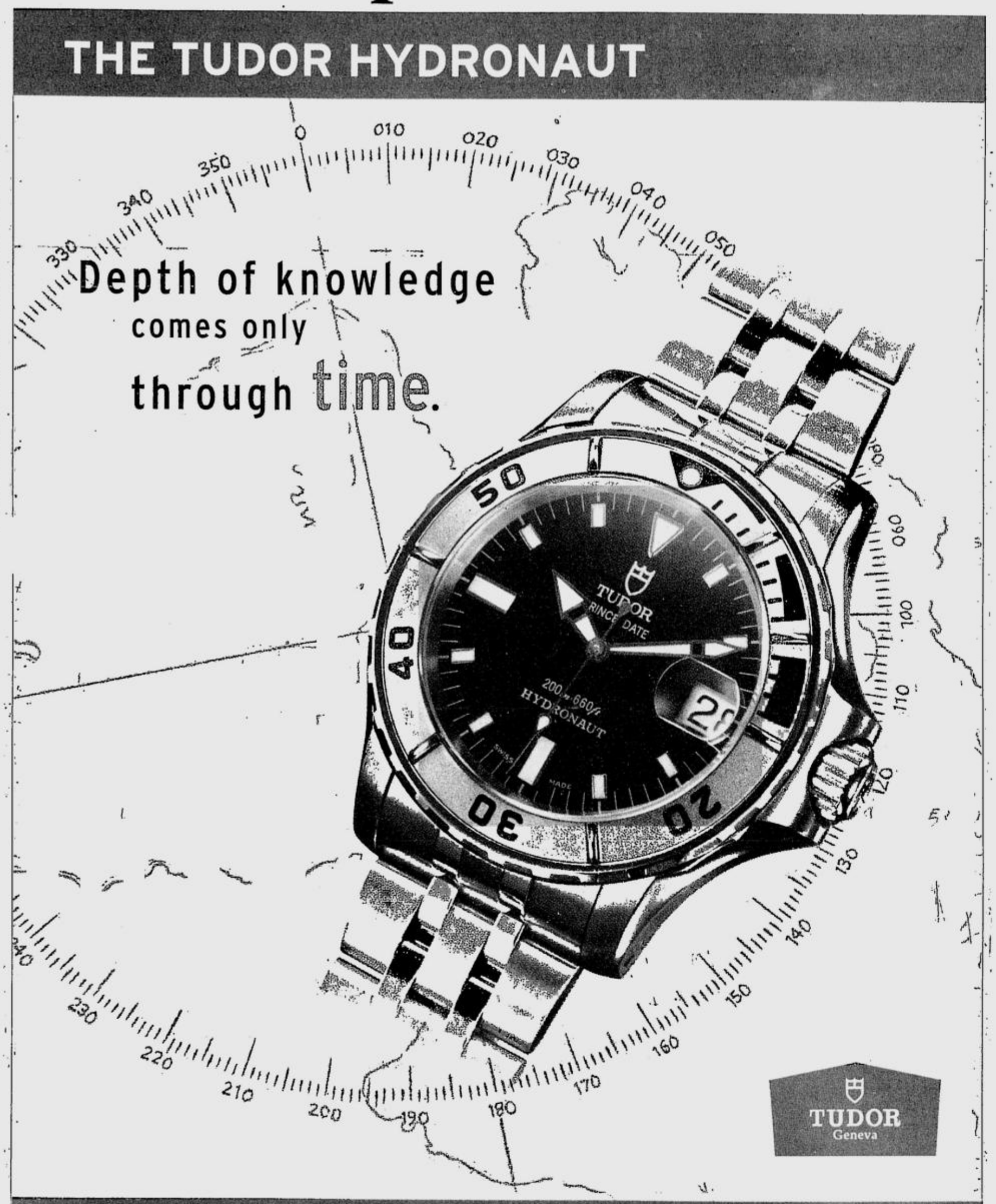
CAUTIOUS trading is expected this weak as investors remain worried about the dragging war on terrorism waged by the United States.

Market analysts said the overall trend remained bearish, although the oversold levels of some local stocks might spur temporary rallies.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed slightly higher at 1,019.44, 1.57 points or 0.15 percent up from the previous week's close.

Analysts said investors would still be looking at what is happening in the United States and the Middle East, noting that a possible breaching of the 1,000 support would bring the index to test the 982 level next.

In terms of specific stocks, the market is awaiting the results of the final negotiations between San Miguel Corp. and RFM Corp. on the sale of Cosmos Bottling Corp. ***(Stock quotations on page B6.)***



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Greenhills Shopping Center

LUCERNE JEWELLERS
-G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
-Level 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
-Level 2, Mega B, SM Megamall
-Level 2, Expansion Mall,
Alabang Town Center
-G/F, Ayala Center, Cebu

HOUR GLASS CENTER
-Level 2, Mega A, SM Megamall

RUSTAN'S SILVER VAULT
-Rustan's Makati, Ayala Center

TIME TREND CENTER
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SM Megamall
-Ground Level, SM City, Manila

WASHINGTON JEWELRY EMPORIUM
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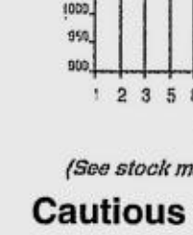
-Lower G/F, SM City, Manila
-North Mall, Alabang Town Center
-G/F, Ali Mall
-G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
-G/F, Harrison Plaza

WASHINGTON WATCHES & JEWELRIES
-Level 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
-Level R1, Power Plant Mall
Rockwell Center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Gov't seen to defer sale of Meralco stake

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is lining up several alternative sources of additional revenues for the government as prospects of privatizing the state's 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co. this year dimmed.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the goal was to generate more than P10 billion in additional government revenues this year to contain the country's budget deficit within the P145-billion ceiling. As of September, the budget deficit stood at P122 billion.

Camacho said that among the measures being considered was the sale of several state-owned assets including the presidential yacht "Ang Pangulo" that could fetch P1 billion, the sequestered jewelry collection of the Marcoses and some P10 billion worth of prime real estate assets in Ortigas.

"It is possible that the sale of the Meralco shares will be deferred for next year," said Camacho who had previously told reporters that the sale of the government's shares in Meralco would push through this year, whether or not the local stock market recovers.

However, Camacho changed his position later as he admitted that at the way share prices have been behaving these days, there was no way the government could raise the target of P4 billion from the sale of the Meralco shares.

The Privatization Management Office, chaired by Camacho, failed to come up with a decision on what to do with the Meralco shares after the Commission on Audit rejected a plan to sell the shares by issuing equity derivatives.

Camacho said the scheme failed to comply with the COA's standards on divestment.

"COA rejected the original structure we were working on and we have to check whether other alternatives, such as the sale with a call option, is acceptable," he said.

Selling Meralco this year will depend largely on whether COA will accept any of the privatization modes being proposed by the PMO, said the finance chief.

Camacho said a public offering of the Meralco shares was already out of the question due to the continued stock market slump.

Instead of selling the shares, the government may opt to issue warrants, which can be covered by a put and call option, in order to maximize the gains from the sale of the stocks, he said.

The put (buy) and call (sell) option will give the government the flexibility to buy back the shares when the market improves. At the same time, it can compel the investors to buy the stocks if Meralco share prices plunge.

Two years ago, the government's stake in Meralco was worth about P9 billion.

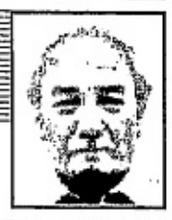
The government owns a little over 7 percent in Meralco while the PCGG controls more than 2 percent.

Meralco is the country's largest electric distributor, serving 3.1 million customers in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. It is controlled by the Lopez family through subsidiaries that include First Philippine Holdings Corp., Benpres Holdings and Lopez Foundation.

What do we do with SSS and GSIS?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



FOR the past several months, the two biggest pension funds in the country, the Social Security System (SSS) for private sector employees and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) for government sector employees, have been in the news. There has been little that members liked in what they have read.

At the SSS, a new chief executive officer was installed. He set out to institute reforms to cut costs and raise investment income. The employees' union hated his management style. After a three-day strike, which was clearly illegal since government employees do not have the constitutional right to strike, Malacañang kicked the CEO up to the chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines. The first lady CEO at the SSS was appointed. She is a no nonsense topnotch accountant who has started to cut down operating costs.

At the GSIS, a new president and general manager was appointed. Nobody noticed that the new man did not have the qualifications specified in the charter.

At the SSS, almost P1.5 billion of the members' money were spread out to 4,000 employees as pay raises over a three-year period beginning 1998. Not to be outdone, salaries and perks at the GSIS also soared to unprecedented levels. The former president/general manager, after two years of work, was retired with a send-off gift of a cool P16 million.

A raft of investments in firms owned by presidential cronies resulted in huge losses: P15 billion at the SSS, P10 billion at the GSIS. I have this sneaking feeling that these figures are under-stated.

Eight brave junior lady executives of the SSS filed anti-grain charges with the Ombudsman against the commissioners and top executives who had a hand in approving the buy-out of 72 percent of PCI bank where the SSS invested P7.5 billion (the single biggest investment in SSS history) in 1999. Since then, the SSS has lost two-thirds of the bank's purchase price.

The Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) filed a complaint at the Ombudsman against the illegal strikers at the SSS. The case has been docketed, but the Ombudsman has not made a move. With the help of the Government Corporate Counsel, PARP also filed anti-graft charges against the SSS commissioners and officials. The case involved one the largest construction companies in the country. PARP has also filed administrative charges against incumbent SSS commissioners and executives who took part in the purchase of PCI Bank. More suits are being prepared, not only against the SSS, but also against the GSIS.

As an SSS pensioner, I ask what the hell is going on? I am prepared to grant that both the SSS and the GSIS are not about to collapse. But isn't it about time the members found out just exactly what the financial condition of both funds is? Both funds keep impressing members of their huge assets. But what is the quality of those assets? Will both funds be able to produce the stock certificates covering their equity investments? How much of the loans should be written off? Are both funds actuarially sound?

With all due respect, I suggest that President Macapagal-Arroyo should immediately constitute fact-finding commissions, one for the SSS and another for the GSIS (at the GSIS, probably two commissions are needed, one for the life side, the other for the non-life aide). The job of the commissions is to determine how solid are the two funds. They are not to engage on "witch hunts." They are to search for the truth.

The members of the commissions should come from the private sector for the SSS and the government sector for the GSIS. A mixture of insurance and investment people and accountants and actuaries will be best. No politicians please. The worst thing the President can do is to let the senators in.

The commissions should be well funded and given six months to come up with their findings and recommendations.

The sooner the President can organize the commissions and get them working, the better for the peace of mind of the almost 25 million members of the SSS and the GSIS.

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Greenhills karma

THE PRINCIPAL players have long gone to the other world, but the love nest of Ferdinand Marcos and Hollywood actress Dovie Beams continues to wreak havoc on the lives of people who have tried to hide the illicit origins of the presidential trysting place in Greenhills.

The BIR's Tax Fraud Division last week concluded over one-and-a-half years of investigation and recommended the criminal prosecution of Baguio Country Club general manager Anthony de Leon for filing fraudulent tax returns on the transfer of 488 Northwestern St., Greenhills.

All the prosecution awaits now is the approval of BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez, who was in Europe last week on an official mission.

By the BIR's computation, a total of P1.5 million in capital gains and documentary stamp taxes still remain uncollected or refused to be paid by De Leon/Maria vda. De Leon and the alleged buyers of the Greenhills house, spouses Virginia Borromeo Chua and Daniel Goite Chua of 12-E Queensroad St., Mandaluyong.

After *Cocktales* wrote a series of articles in March and April 2000, an unidentified party paid the BIR P1.367 million on June 14, 2000, through a bank deposit in an attempt to settle the capital gains tax liability of De Leon. Despite that late payment, the BIR concluded that De Leon and company still owes the government P1.5 million.

Why do we know all these? Because it was *Cocktales* himself who had provided the Greenhills documents that prompted then Revenue Commissioner Dakila Fonacier to order the investigation.

For believing in the government's call to help stamp out corruption and tax evasion, *Cocktales* was amply rewarded with four libel suits by the Department of Justice, the Baguio Prosecutors' Office, all in behalf of the tax dodger.

COCKTALES/B4

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

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Ramcar . . .

(From page B20)

Ramcar, controlled by the Agustines family, specializes in vehicle battery production. It has investments in the Metro Rail Transit 3 project and in the local franchises of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Mr. Donut.

While it had been able to pay at least the interest on the loans, thus making it performing, industry sources said its financial hemorrhage might prompt it to stop paying the interest altogether in the coming months.

"I think the loan is still performing at this time," Buenaventura said.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal or interest has been unpaid for 90 days or more after the due date. A loan is considered past due if it has remained unpaid after a month.

As of August, the level of soured loans of the country's 45 operating commercial banks grew by P2.5 billion to P280.87 billion as the total loan portfolio dropped by P13.3 billion to P1.557 billion.

Using a broader definition of non-performing loans, which include restructured loans and foreclosed assets, the bad loan ratio deteriorated to 28.6 percent in August from 28.3 percent the previous month and 24.2 percent a year ago.

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January-July BOP deficit swells to $917M

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE COUNTRY'S balance-of-payment deficit ballooned by 243 percent to $917 million in the first seven months of the year and surged by 51.32 percent or by $311 million from its level in end-June as exports contracted while foreign exchange capital continued to flee.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that a declining current account surplus of $1.118 billion as of July, down 73.3 percent from the same period last year, coupled with a rising deficit in the capital and financial accounts by 22.8 percent to $3.458 billion, had pushed the BOP deficit higher.

From an earlier target of a $1.1 billion in external payments deficit this year, the central bank is now looking at a BOP gap of as much as $2.2 billion after it had marked down its export outlook to a 15-percent contraction from a flat growth.

The BOP is a record of the current account—which reflects the country's trade position—and the capital and financial account that documents the country's borrowings and investment flows.

A balance-of-payment deficit meant more funds slipped out of the country than the amount of inflow in the course of transactions with other countries and bilateral creditors.

A current account surplus indicates that export earnings still outpaced the amount that had been spent for imports.

Despite a marked decline in the volume of shipments, exports receipts were even boosted by the weakness of the peso, making local products cheaper compared with what its competing neighbors sell.

The lower current account surplus was caused by declining export receipts as the country's major markets like the United States and Japan, both accounting for almost 50 percent of the country's export earnings, had suffered a slowdown.

Export of goods had declined by 11.3 percent as of July and electronics, which accounts for more than half of the shipment, had suffered a 19.3-percent contraction.

Unlike in June when about $250 million worth of loans helped cover some of the gap in the financial accounts, no sovereign foreign borrowings were completed in July.

Of the three items under the financial account, other investments which reflect capital flight whether in the form of banks' overseas deposits or investments of Filipinos abroad posted the biggest deficit of $4.391 billion as of July from $4.192 billion a year ago.

Direct investments, on of the three items, registered a 30.4-percent decline to $898 million from $1.29 billion in July last year. Portfolio investments, another item, was almost nothing to speak off as it stood at only $37 million from $52 million last year.

Foreign creditors and investors use the BOP and current account as important measures in knowing the country's ability to settle its imports, which are, in turn, used largely by local manufacturers and exporters to produce commodities.

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Cocktales

(From page B3)

With this new column, *Cocktales* opens himself up to a possible fifth libel complaint. But if this is the price we have to pay, so be it.

Hankering for Hungary

THE MANILA Standard is losing its publisher, Andy del Rosario, who is slated for an ambassadorial posting in Hungary.

A former press attaché, Del Rosario counts former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo as among his enthusiastic supporters.

With Del Rosario's overseas assignment, Standard editor in chief/columnist Jullie Yap will likely take on the publisher's hat as well, according to the grapevine.

Short takes

• SGV's reputation is on the line again, with bank-creditors belatedly discovering that Ramcar's audited liabilities had been understated by, give or take, P6 billion.

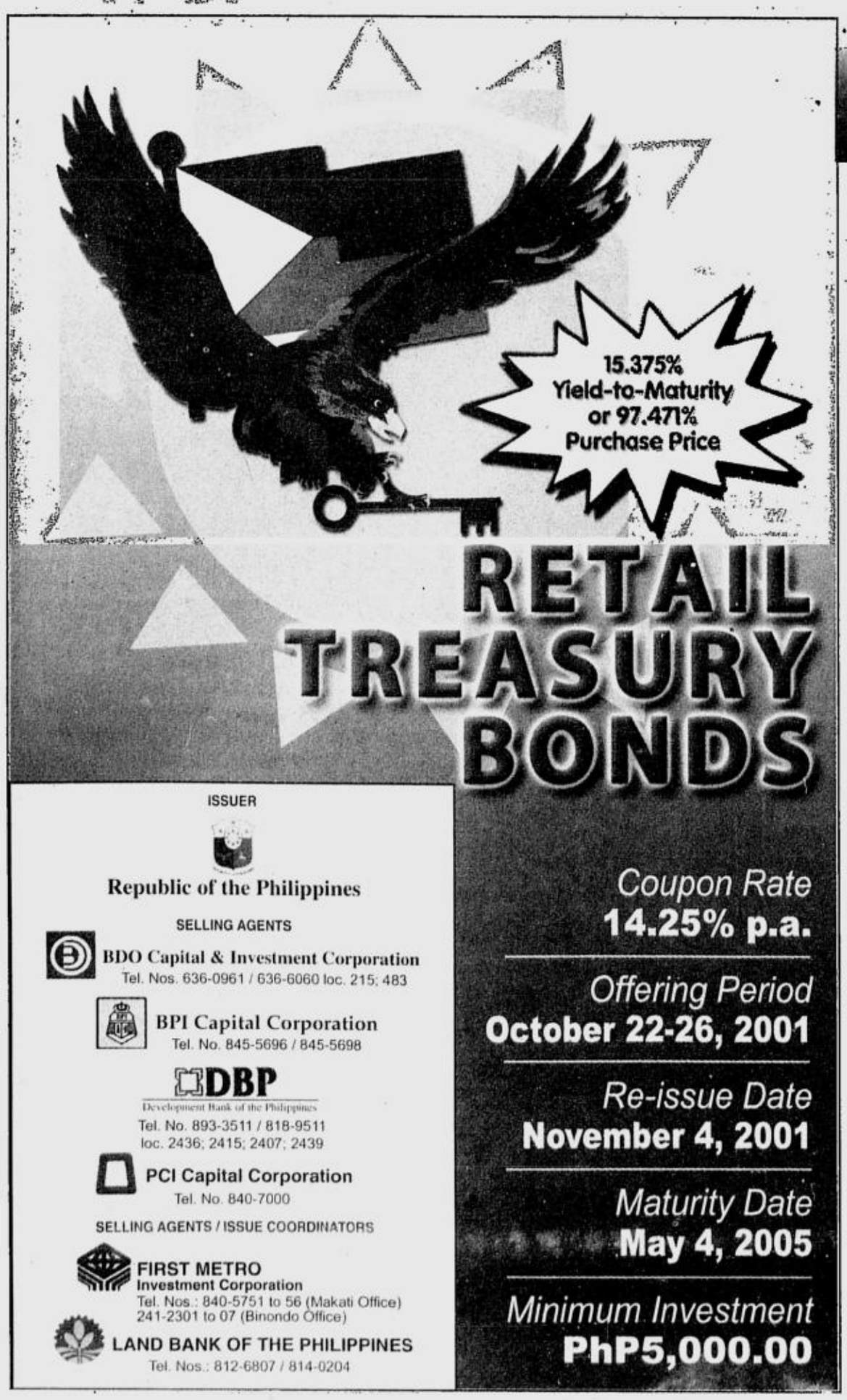
• J. WALTER Thompson has laid off its entire San Miguel Beer division, following the ad agency's loss of the lucrative account. Among the dozen-or-so staffers who had been retrenched included Bogie Gallardo, who was just hired in January to head the division.

• CONTRARY to what was reported here on Oct. 15, 2001, the father of realtor Jacques Dupasquier was actually the former CEO of Procter and Gamble (not Johnson and Johnson) in the '60s and '70s.

Heard through the grapevine

THE NEW board of the Manila Polo Club is calling for a special membership meeting to propose lifetime membership to senior members.

The resolution proposing the amendment was passed without the concurrence of president Policarpio Ascalon, treasurer Harry Tan and director Carlos Rufino. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*



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   Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.
6. **What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?**
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7. **What is an investor s proof of ownership?**
   The Investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).
8. **Where can an investor purchase RTBs?**
   An investor can purchase RTBs from any of the branches and/or business centers of the Selling Agents.

BSP cuts reserve requirement on long-term deposits

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has brought down to 2 percent from 20 percent the reserve requirement for long-term types of deposits.

The move is seen to initially attract P100 billion worth of investments and could sufficiently develop a secondary market for debt and deposit notes.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the policy-making Monetary Board had approved last Thursday a new circular that would impose only a 2 percent statutory reserve and no liquidity reserve for deposits placed at five years or more.

An 11-percent liquidity reserve and 9-percent statutory reserve remain in place for other deposits and deposit substitutes.

"The move should jumpstart the creation of long-term instruments, help develop the secondary market, push banks to be more transparent, and in the process help the national government pump prime the housing sector," the central bank chief said.

With the minimal reserve requirement, Buenaventura said he expected banks to offer interest rates to long-term depositors to be almost at par with market rates.

Only banks that meet the minimum capital requirement, risk adequacy ratio, have adequate provision for losses, and meet other standards of financial health would be allowed to issue these certificate of deposits that could be sold to retail investors.

A bank could only issue deposit certificates up to three times the size of its capital and initially only in weekly or monthly tranches of P5 billion, the central bank governor said.

A depositor with available cash could put this in a bank in exchange for a certificate of deposit that could be bought or sold in a secondary market.

Buenaventura said the plan was in line with the objective of capital market leaders to put up a bond exchange for debt securities and other types of debt notes including certificates of deposits.

Unitrust lists new thrusts

UNITRUST Development Bank said it has lined up "creative and innovative fee-based, off-balance sheet product lines" that it would introduce and implement to improve its bottomline.

UDB president Francis Yuseco said that topping the bank's list was an alternative ATM system that could link up smaller banks (thrift banks, cooperative banks, credit cooperatives, and savings and loan associations).

Using a Canadian software program that can be customized for Philippine application and a satellite communication system, an account holder can deposit and withdraw in any of the member banks anywhere in the country, he said.

Yuseco noted that small thrift banks and other financial institutions could not afford to enroll in the Megalink or Bancnet system due to substantial equity required to install the requisite infrastructure.

Another thrust of the bank, he said, was the introduction of a debt-generated savings plan for overseas Filipino workers. "Most OFWs have limited access to savings and investment products. However, they will be compelled to remit if they know they have a debt to service in a local bank."

Yuseco said the bank would proposed to the government that it be named manager of a state-sponsored OFW fund, which is created by a legislative act and called the Overseas Workers Investment Fund (Owif), with the power to issue investment instruments for the benefit of OFWs.

Yuseco said the bank's policy on micro lending program should also emphasize the importance of social engineering and cooperativism.

Another growth area for UDB, according to Yuseco, is the financing of local government units.

Despite the empowering of LGUs under the Local Government Code and instituting the system of devolution, he said government agencies and instrumentalities have not been too active in issuing debt instruments as a way to raise funds.

The other thrusts of the bank would be on cooperative housing and the development of the local capital market, Yuseco added.

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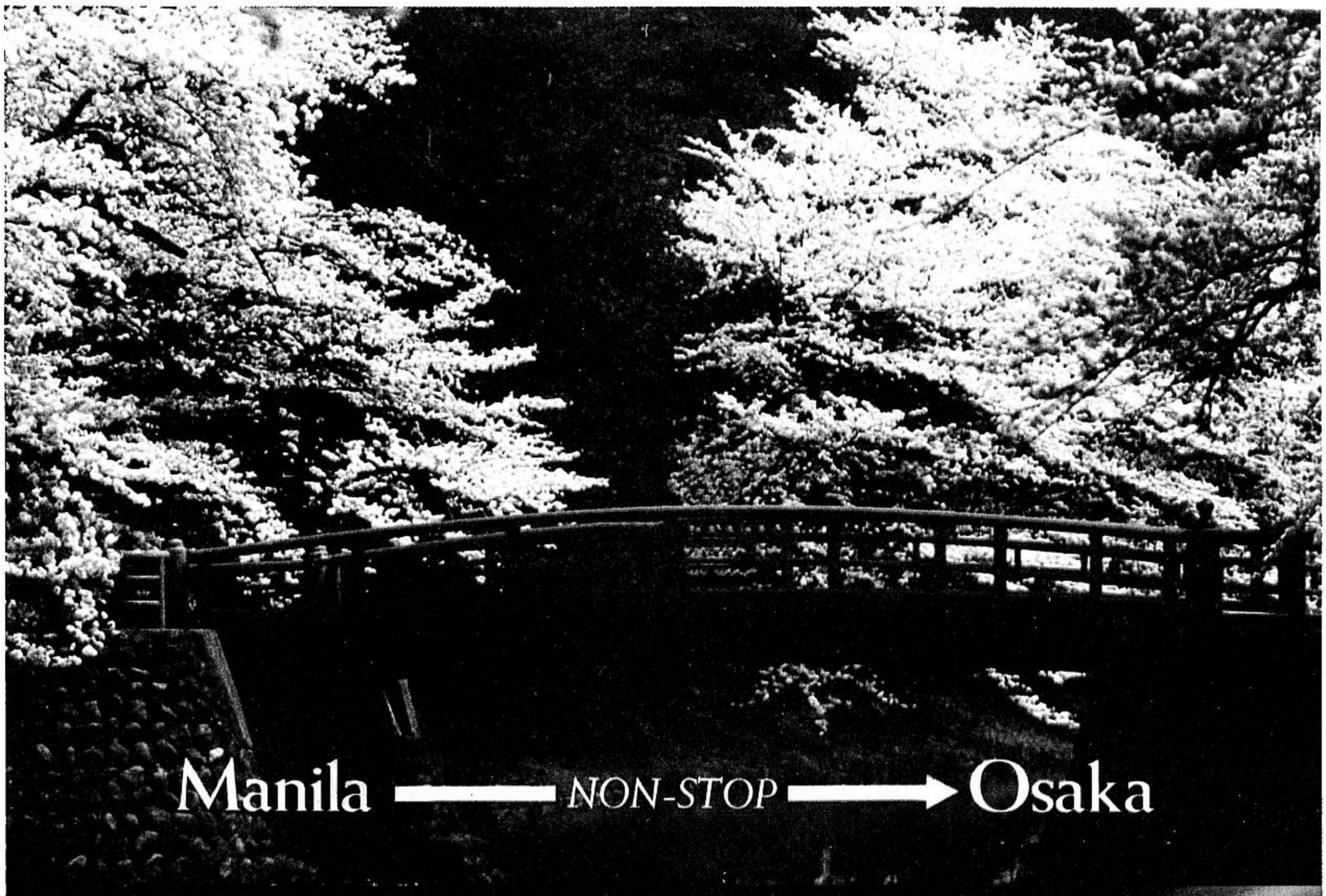

Lackluster stock trade seen on weaker investor sentiment

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

AFTER a short-lived rally, which prevented a further freefall in the market last week, local stocks are seen to resume trading with heightened caution this week as threats of bioterrorism hit the global community.

Market analysts said the overall trend remained bearish, although the oversold levels of local stocks might spur temporary rallies.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed slightly better at 1,019.44, 1.57 points or 0.15 percent higher than the previous week's close.

Westlink Global Equities analyst James Lago said that after keeping itself above the 1,000 level last week, the Phisix would still test this support level this week.

MARKET PLAY

"People will still be looking at what's happening in the US," Lago said, noting that a possible breaching of the 1,000 support would bring the index to test the 982 level next.

Lago said trading would continue to be tight and lackluster. In terms of specific stocks, the market is awaiting the results of the final negotiations between San Miguel Corp. and RFM Corp. on the sale of Cosmos Bottling Corp.

He said the market was expecting that RFM, which was in need of fresh funds to retire debts, might be forced to accept a lower price for Cosmos.

SMC and RFM earlier agreed on an indicative price of P15 billion for 100 percent of Cosmos, including funds earmarked for a tender offer to minority shareholders. After the due diligence last week, however, SMC has lowered its offer. According to reports, the price cut being asked was about P3 billion.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the dominant trend remained bearish, although there could still be some technical correction over the short term.

"Volume indicators are pointing to a positive reversal as trading has been extremely thin for the past one month. It is worth noting that bear markets end in extremely thin volumes and bull markets start on such type of volumes," Vistan said.

But Vistan said it remained uncertain on how long a reversal could last.

"It's more likely that we will see a slow moving market, with decent support at the current levels. The market needs to work its way through this trading range. There is so much uncertainty now that are causing investors to remain timid," Vistan said.

Vistan said the immediate resistance levels were at 1,075 and 1,120 while initial support was at the psychological 1,000 level.

"Fortunately, investors have managed to keep their emotions in check after going through a roller coaster ride in recent weeks. As such, the worst point of the current downtrend has probably passed. Selling is close to being exhausted as we saw a lot of foreign funds liquidating during the past month. Once their selling is through, the general feeling may shift toward that of bargain hunting. There still won't be any bull market mentality, with only selective stocks getting attention," he said.

However, Vistan noted that the uncertainties about the war on terrorism, the upcoming third-quarter economic report and corporate results as well as domestic political squabbles continued to weigh down on the market.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said the market's upside was being limited by the new anthrax alarm.

"So far, the favor has shifted back to skeptics that continue to thrive on numbers likely to be affected by the alleged bioterrorism scare. While the focus is presently biased toward the left side of the equation, it would take some time before the global community shifts its sight toward the right wing," It said.

"Overall, another wait-and-see mode might prevail during the week as investors see if the Phisix would hold above the critical 1,000 support level. It's best to trade selectively and cautiously, buy on weakness and sell into strength," it said.

PSE members to meet next month to discuss transfer to Bonifacio

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ROW on the Philippine Stock Exchange leadership has been resolved but the relocation of the bourse in Fort Bonifacio remains a contentious issue for member-brokers who are set to discuss the controversial donation from the Metro Pacific group during a special stockholders' meeting this November.

The member-brokers who earlier gave their proxies to question the ouster of PSE president Ramon T. Garcia, constituting more than the majority of the active membership, agreed Thursday night to withdraw their petition now that the PSE board had agreed to reinstall Garcia.

But in an appreciation-fellowship dinner attended by 47 out of 90 members who gave their proxies to support Garcia, the consensus was to stay on guard on the Fort Bonifacio issue.

"The proposed stockholders' meeting was not called anymore because of the reinstatement," Garcia said.

The PSE board agreed to lift the termination order issued to Garcia earlier on condition that the president would go on terminal leave until his term expires this March.

During the informal discussion during the thanksgiving dinner, Garcia said: "Some members expressed their doubt on the present capability of FBDC (Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.) to make good its contract to donate the original 40,000-square-meter property in Capital Place, considering its announcement that its total stake in Fort Bonifacio may have to be sold to pay pressing obligations."

"Other members scored the flip-flopping of Fort Bonifacio, underscoring the fact that the new proposal of transferring the property to a new corporation and donating to the PSE the shares of the new corporation for a period of seven to 10 years would still require BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenues) consent and clearance," he added.

There was a suggestion, Garcia said, that FBDC instead sell the property to PSE for P10 million to resolve the tax problem.

The PSE board has already agreed to renegotiate the terms of the deed of donation and has given the PSE building committee the authority to secure a new deal.

Under the MPC group's new proposal, a 2,200-square-meter lot would be transferred to a new corporation (newco). PSE will become the effective owner of the lot with which the group will enter into a joint venture deal for the project construction.

FBDC will construct the core and shell while PSE will do the fit-out of the project area. However, the construction will be over a 10-year period from the signing of the new agreement, dashing hopes that a unified trading floor would be ready by 2004.

At the start of the 7th year from the execution of the project and FBDC has not commenced the construction, FBDC could choose another two-year extension or simply transfer the donated lot to the PSE without any more conditions.

In case the PSE members-stockholders decide to stick to the original agreement which requires building completion by 2004, PSE building committee chair Ismael Cruz said the bourse would be obliged to go to court to prompt the MPC group to comply. However, he was hoping that a new agreement that would be acceptable to the members would be forged with the MPC group.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, October 19, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	44.5	44.5	456,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	55,100
Global Business Bank Inc	70	78	70	78	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	175	178	172	173	69,170
Philippine National Bank	48	48	48	48	42,900
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28.5	29	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	17	18	17	18	20,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.75	16	15.75	16	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1245	1245	1245	500
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1030	1030	1030	15,920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	6,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	70,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	120,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	3.25	2.9	3.25	505,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	365	370	365	370	38,120
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	24,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	21.75	21.5	21.75	39,800
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	441,300
Petron Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	3,562,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.3	1.24	1.26	1,311,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	138,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	46,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	4.95	397,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	133,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24.5	23.75	24.5	63,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	78	78	78	78	200
RFM Corp.	1.84	1.94	1.82	1.84	441,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	86,700
San Miguel Corp. B	43	43	42	43	760,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.8	4.85	3,303,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,204,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.61	30,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	250,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.77	0.73	0.77	3,080,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	190,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	1,100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	84,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	417,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	980,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	310,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	110,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	350,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26.5	26	26	239,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	5,720
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	50,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	300
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	22,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	5,139,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	180,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.245	2,010,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.195	0.2	3,680,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.14	1.16	2,743,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.165	1,530,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.5	1,176,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	15,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	715,790	52,868,165.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	68,434,440	114,576,275.00
PRO	16,463,000	32,521,440.00
Mining	25,920,000	190,500.00
OIL	15,000,000	45,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	126,433,230	200,221,370.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	407.00	DOWN 3.66
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,440.96	DOWN 12.10
PRO	427.94	DOWN 1.43
Mining	1,007.19	DOWN 8.78
OIL	1.41	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	841.97	DOWN 4.58
Composite	1,019.44	DOWN 8.96

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73; NO. OF TRADES: 1,435

CURRENCIES

Oct. 19, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105705	1.000000	51.6940
Japan	Yen	0.009129	0.008256	0.4268
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597966	1.445200	74.7082
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141939	0.128370	6.6360
Switzerland	Franc	0.676024	0.611396	31.6055
Canada	Dollar	0.700789	0.633794	32.7633
Singapore	Dollar	0.608199	0.550055	28.4345
Australia	Dollar	0.562127	0.508388	26.2806
Bahrain	Dinar	2.933062	2.652661	137.1267
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294855	0.266667	13.7851
Brunei	Dollar	0.647346	0.585460	30.2648
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000100	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024719	0.022356	1.1557
UAE	Dirham	0.301118	0.272331	14.0779
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000772	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904400	46.7521
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.462412	23.9039
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137875	7.1273
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410399	21.2152
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065725	3.3976
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022419	1.1589
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.166188	0.152109	7.8631
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004511	0.2332
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005436	0.2810
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022419	1.1589
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.148351	59.3629

Taiwan . . .

(From page B1)

having their jobs and focus on doing their part to make investments attractive here," De Leon said.

But while NMPI successfully petitioned the DOLE to issue an Assumption of Jurisdiction to prevent a strike, De Leon said union members affiliated with Olalia-KMU implemented a work slowdown for two months (which cost the company P30 million) and resorted to scare tactics by threatening to harm NMPI executives and damaging company property.

De Leon warned that this sustained labor unrest would have "far-reaching effects" on the industry and the economy. "It would be for the benefit of the Philippine economy if the industrial peace is maintained, otherwise Philippine investments would have no competitive advantage," Yulon has pending plans to turn the Philippines into its production hub in the region.

NMPI is the second local assembler in seven months to temporarily stop rolling its assembly line due to a disagreement between management and labor. Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. incurred P150 million in losses after a labor strike shut down its Sta. Rosa plant for more than a week.

NMPI, which markets the Nissan Sentra and Cefiro sedans and Nissan Ad Resort pick up, reassured its customers that its dealership network remained fully operational, which should ensure continued service and availability of spare parts.

Ang Tan Golf Club & Shares, Inc.
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SELLING:		BUYING:	
Alabang A/B	1,300,000/1,600 M	Alabang A/B	1.3M/1.6M
Baguio Country Club	720,000	Baguio Country Club	700,000
Camp John Hay Golf	300,000	Camp John Hay Golf	250,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	Capitol Hills	115,000
Celebrity	105,000	Celebrity	100,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	350/400/500	Eagle Ridge A/B/C	350/400/500
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	230/230/250	Forest Hills "A"/B/C	200/200
Manila Golf (Indv.)	10,000,000	Manila Golf (Indv.)	10,980,000
Manila Golf (Corp.)	15,950,000	Manila Golf (Corp.)	13,950,000
Manila Polo	2 7M	Manila Polo	2 7M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	700,000/700,000	Manila Southwoods "A"/B	700,000/800,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/Corp.	350,000/600,000	Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	550,000
Orchard "A"/B/C	230/350/550	Orchard "A"/B/C	200/250
Puerto Azul	140,000	Philippine Columbian	Please call
Quezon City Sports	225,000	Quezon City Sports	Please call
Riviera "A"/B/C	200/350/400	Riviera "A"/B/C	200/250/400
Rockwell Club	490,000	Rockwell Club	400,000
Royale Tagaytay	Please call	Sta. Elena A	1,600,000
Sta. Elena A/B	1,600M/2.3M	Tagaytay Highlands Club	350,000
Sherwood	100,000	Tagaytay Highland Golf	790,000
Subic Yacht (Indv.) & Corp.	Please call	Tagaytay Midlands	700,000
Tagaytay Highlands Club/Golf	300/790	Valle Verde CC/Corp	160,000/310,000
Tagaytay Midlands	730,000	Valley Golf	240,000
Valle Verde CC/Corp.	160/310,000	Wack Wack	6,700,000
Valley Golf	250,000		
Wack Wack	6,750,000		

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Partial list CLUBS	10/19/2001 ASKED Price	Share Swapping: Please Call CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	1,500,000	BAGUIO CC	700,000
BAGUIO CC	750,000	CANLUBANG	800,000
CANLUBANG GC	865,000	CC AT TAGAYTAY	Call now
CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000	MAKATI SPORTS "A"	Call now
MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	Call now	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	11,000,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	13,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	750,000	MANILA POLO	2,650,000
ORCHARD "C"	550,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
RIVIERA GCC "A" / "B"	Call now	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	800,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	585,000	ORCHARD "A"	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	1,800,000	STA. ELENA "B"	Call now
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	Call now	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	Call now
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	830,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	Call now
VALLEY GOLF	260,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000
WACK-WACK GOLF	Call now		

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
CANLUBANG GC	Call now	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	35,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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BUY/SELL COUNTRY CLUB SHARES
AS OF OCTOBER 19, 2001

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	Please call
2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Please call	Please call
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000.00	700,000.00
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	-
5.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	800,000.00	-
6.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	300,000.00	-
7.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "C"	-	Please call
8.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
9.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	Please call
10.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	350,000.00	-
11.	EAGLERIDGE GOLD CLUB "B"	500,000.00	-
12.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	340,000.00	-
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call	3,000,000 a/in
14.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	11,500,000.00	Please call
15.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	Please call	Please call
16.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000.00	650,000.00
17.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	Please call
18.	MIMOSA C-2	350,000.00	-
19.	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
20.	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
21.	MT. MALARAYAT "C"	550,000.00	-
22.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
23.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	400,000.00	-
24.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	500,000.00	-
25.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	140,000.00	-
26.	PUNTA FUEGO (IND.)	945,000.00	-
27.	ROCKWELL	600,000.00	450,000.00
28.	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	350,000.00	250,000.00
29.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,700,000.00	-
30.	SUBIC YATCH CLUB	750,000.00 a/in	-
31.	SPLENDIDO	600,000.00	-
32.	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	150,000.00	-
33.	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
34.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
35.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	740,000.00	-
36.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	Please call
37.	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	320,000.00	Please call
38.	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
39.	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	Please call
40.	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	Please call
41.	OTHERS	Please call	-

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	30,000.00
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	30,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	65,000.00
TAGAYTAY INT'L. GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	50,000.00
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
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AS OF OCTOBER 19, 2001

		SELLING	BUYING
*1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,600,000	
*2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,900,000	
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	320,000	
6.	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	800,000	
7.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	115,000
8.	CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	
10.	CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11.	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13.	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	210,000
15.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	400,000
17.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		300,000
18.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
*19.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	16,000,000	
*20.	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	2,700,000
21.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000	
22.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	
23.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	150,000	
24.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	
25.	MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
27.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
28.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
29.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
30.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	190,000
31.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	
*32.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,600,000
33.	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
34.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	800,000	
35.	TAGAYTAY [illegible]	750,000	
		[illegible]	175,000
		[illegible]	
		S. CALL	

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of October 22, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,600,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,600,000
Baguio Country Club	735,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	90,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	115,000
Camp John Hay	-	300,000
Canlubang	-	800,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	135,000
Cebu Country Club	1,930,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	325,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	14,000,000	15,700,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	13,500,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	720,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	115,000	160,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	40,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	130,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	240,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	-	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	120,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,700,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,800,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	200,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	390,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	770,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	170,000	190,000
Valley Golf	220,000	250,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	7,000,000

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)			
Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	55,000	Riviera "A"	10,000
Eaglerdge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Enstridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	40,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
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Peza reports 56% drop in ecozone investments

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority reported that investments fell sharply in the first 10 months this year as majority of electronic firms shelved their new and expansion projects in the face of a worst down market in the last 40 years.

Peza documents showed that investments nosedived 56 percent to P28.622 billion from January to Oct. 11 this year from P64.756 billion during the same period last year.

The Peza is not only likely to miss badly on its P88-billion investment target but it is also expected to fall short of its P74 billion investments registered last year.

Investments in new export enterprises decreased 68 percent to P7.77 billion from January to Oct. 11 this year from P24.392 billion during the same period last year. Investments for the expansion of existing enterprises slowed down by 53 percent to P15.735 billion from January to Oct. 11 this year from P33.402 billion last year.

Going against the trend was the information technology sector where 17 companies pumped in P1.882 billion in new investments from January to Oct. 11 this year, up 102 percent from P929.482 million a year ago.

There were 183 firms that registered during the period from 206 last year with projected employment of 39,105 and $3.615 billion in export earnings.

The steep drop in Peza investments mirrored the meltdown in the country's export sector, specifically the electronics industry, which accounts for roughly 70 percent of the country's export earnings.

The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) is projecting 15-percent drop in exports this year to $23.08 billion from $27.16 billion last year.

Seipi executive director Ernie Santiago said the slump in demand for computers and other high-tech gadgets in the world's major markets have forced electronic firms to scale down their expansion plans.

RFM confident on Cosmos sale

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE CONCEPCION family's RFM Corp. is confident it can close a deal with food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. for the sale of Cosmos Bottling Corp. very soon despite emerging obstacles on valuation issues.

This developed as the market was all eyes and ears on whether the deal would push through following news that SMC had lowered its offer for Cosmos from the P15 billion "enterprise value" earlier indicated.

RFM officials said the company was still determined to stick it out with SMC, brushing aside speculations that the company was now reconsidering an alternative offer from US-based Pepsico Inc. should SMC's new offer become unacceptable.

"That has never entered our mind. We are still negotiating with SMC," an official said.

But the official said there was no timetable yet on when a share purchase agreement would finally be signed. "It can be as early as tomorrow, as long as next week or two weeks after. We still don't know," the official said.

Pepsico was the biggest rival earlier faced by the SMC group in the bidding war for Cosmos. "It's logical that RFM would reconsider Pepsico because if the rumors are true that SMC wants to lower the valuation by P3 billion, they might be better off with Pepsico," a stock market analyst said.

However, the analyst noted that if RFM decides to call off the deal with SMC, Pepsico would surely ask for the results of the due-diligence audit by SMC.

Earlier reports said SMC wanted to lower the valuation for Cosmos as some facilities of the bottler were no longer in very good condition.

The P15-billion indicative price covered 100 percent of Cosmos, thus inclusive of the amount earmarked for a tender offer for other minority shareholders. This would translate to a price of P6.53 for each of the bottler's 2.29 billion outstanding shares.

The share price of Cosmos has been falling in the past few days as investors have started to worry over the delays in the signing of a definitive deal.

The acquisition of Cosmos, if consummated, will give the SMC group 90-percent control of the local soft drink market. Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., which was recently reacquired by SMC, will take over the Cosmos business in partnership with Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Co.

The deal was supposed to cover the Pop Cola, Sarsi Rootbeer and Jaz soft drink brands but would exclude the bottled water business. The memorandum of understanding earlier signed also included a 10-year non-compete clause.

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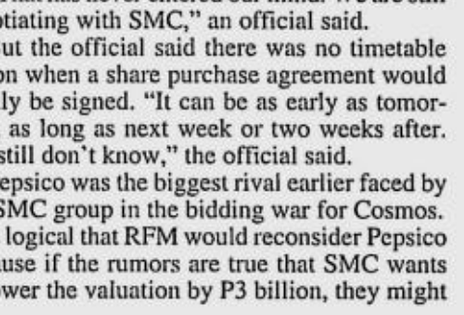

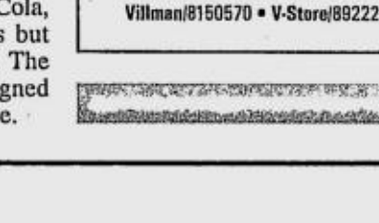

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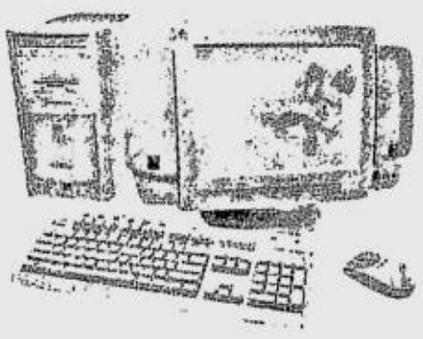

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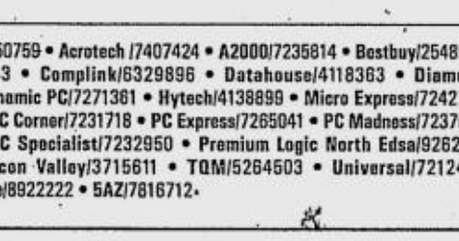

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Sky, Home drop Star TV

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

CABLE television sister firms Sky Vision Corp. and Phil. Home Cable Holdings Corp. have decided to drop their Star TV Asia programs due to alleged outrageous programming fees and the "take all or nothing" condition imposed by the content provider.

In a statement issued Friday, Sky Vision managing director Carlos Tria Jr. said Star TV was demanding a $10-million contract for five channels, almost 82-percent higher than the old $5.5-million contract. This translates to P520 million (at an exchange rate of P52 to $1), or more than double the cost of the old contract signed two years ago when the exchange rate was at P42 to $1.

Tria told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview that they were "significantly apart" in their negotiations as the program provider was firm in its demand for higher rates.

"We can't even afford the current amount and now they (Star TV) want to impose higher rates," he said.

SkyCable alone has around six months' worth of unpaid programming fees to Star TV. Tria said this involved a "substantial amount" of money, but he did not disclose exactly how much. He said Home Cable was in a worse situation.

The statement further stated that "Star TV was actually trying to bully us into buying a bundle of six channels on a 'take all or nothing' basis, including three channels for which we already have equivalent service."

Tria said both SkyCable and Home Cable initially wanted only three programs: Star Sports, Star Movies and ESPN. During their negotiations, though, the cable companies "tried to accommodate as many as five channels and we increased our offer price accordingly."

But Star TV decided to cut off its programming in the two cable companies shortly after 2 p.m. on Oct. 19, even while negotiations were still ongoing.

Tria said the two companies chose not to carry the Star TV package as this would mean having to sacrifice their major channels.

In lieu of the Star TV channels, Tria promised SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers heftier servings of basketball, golf and tennis events. He further said that there would be additional coverage of top billiard, basketball and boxing events in the future.

SkyCable also recently added Channel News Asia, Solar TV and AXN Action TV to its program pool. Home Cable, on the other hand, now carries Cinema One, ANC and Lifestyle Network.

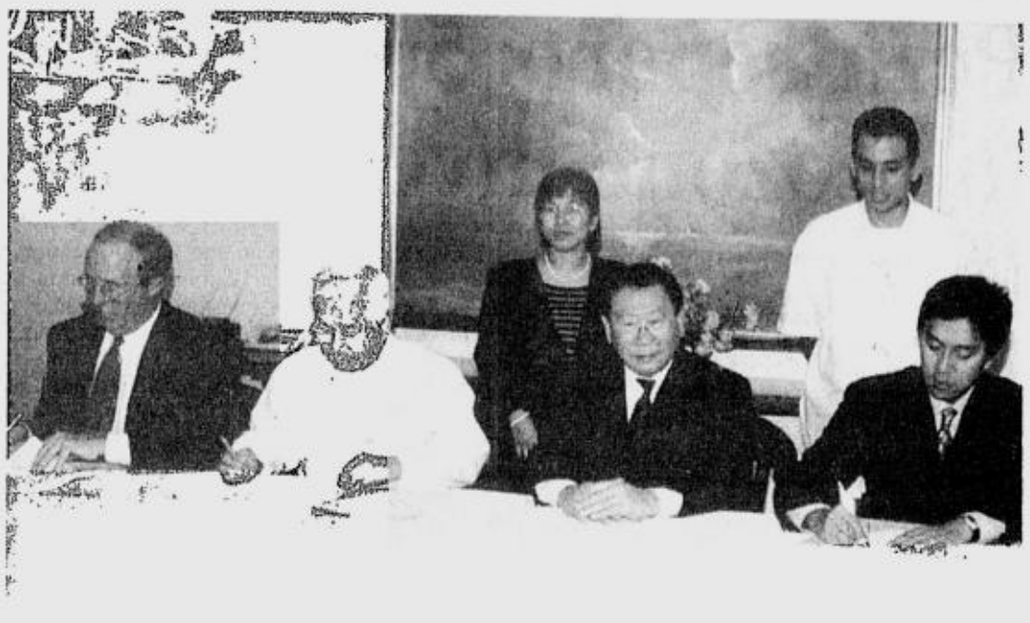
The statement, however, said that most cable operators were in the same predicament as SkyCable and Home Cable in terms of programming fees.

"It may only be a matter of time before the other cable operators drop channels or programs as they are under the same cost pressures as SkyCable and Home Cable," it said.

Tria earlier said that a possible solution to their financial problems would be to reduce the number of programs that they carried.

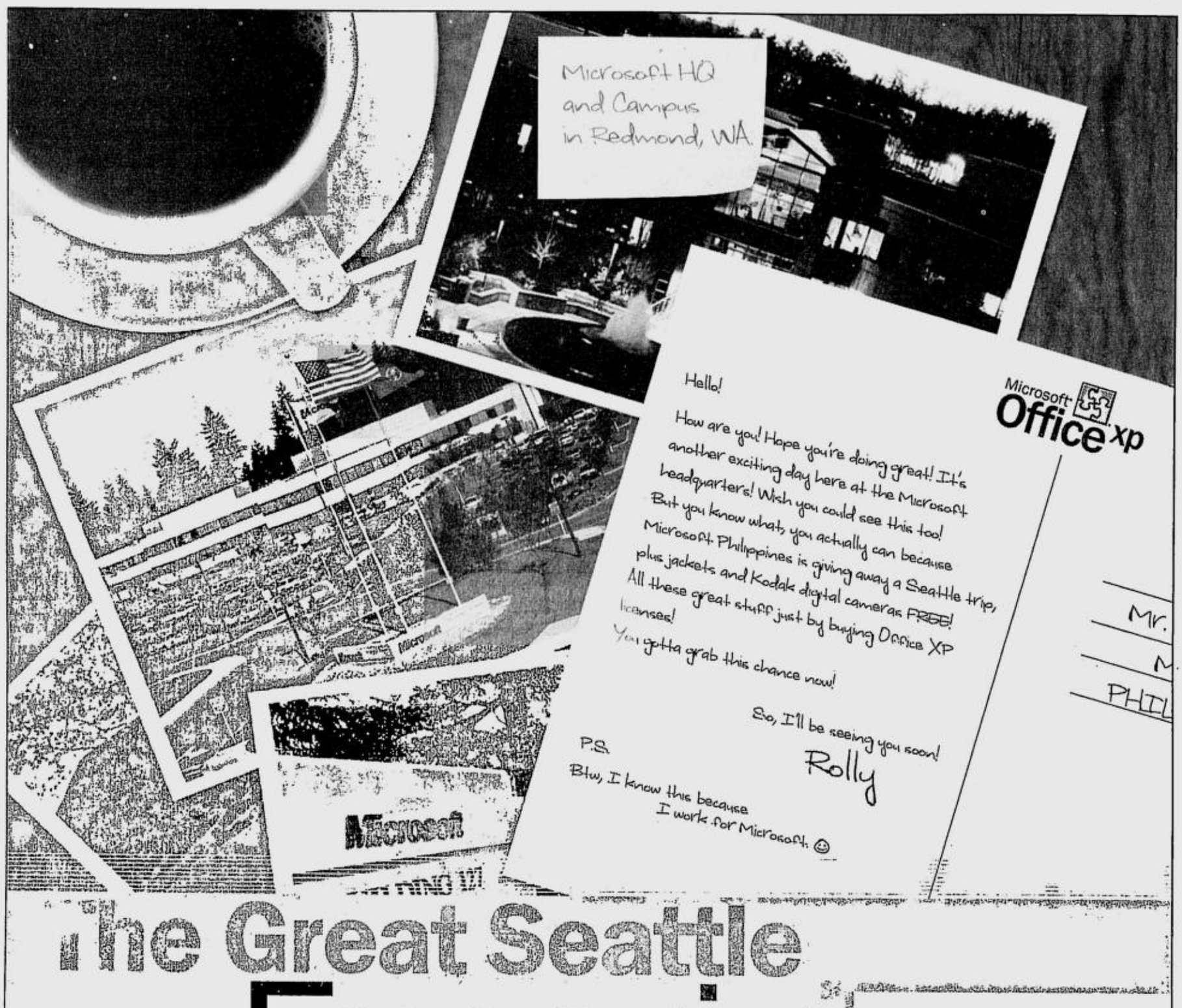
"It's one of the painful decisions that we have to make, unless we are able to negotiate reduced programming fees with our programmers," he said.

Tria said the SkyCable-Home Cable consolidation was done precisely to reduce these cost pressures. Operating as one could give the cable companies a stronger position to negotiate with programmers for reduced rates.



DOE, OIL FIRMS SIGN MOA

The government and the country's three biggest oil firms recently signed a memorandum of agreement to study alternatives that would minimize the risks posed by oil depots in Pandacan. Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. (4th from left) signs the agreement with (seated L-R) Caltex president Nicholas C. Florio, Pilipinas Shell president Oscar S. Reyes and Petron president Motassim A. Al-Ma'ashouq.



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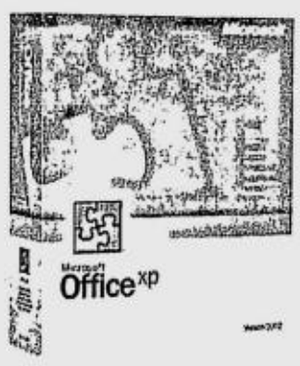

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SEC, BSP to hold joint audit of All Asia

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas are working on a joint audit of All Asia Capital and Trust Corp. upon the request of International Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, SEC officials said.

IFC, which is objecting to the rehabilitation of the investment house, claimed that its $20-million investment in all Asia was "stolen" by the directors and officers of the entity.

The audit aims to determine whether the IFC claim has any basis.

IFC controls a 7-percent stake in All Asia and has an outstanding loan to the company amounting to $17 million.

All Asia had filed with a regional trial court a petition for the suspension of debt payments and rehabilitation. The court granted the petition and appointed former SEC associate commissioner Danilo Concepcion as receiver.

Last year, the SEC ordered All Asia to stop operations after it found that the investment house had violated some of the country's securities laws.

The results of an SEC audit of All Asia showed that the liabilities of commercial paper issuers Reynold Philippines Corp. and Mondragon International Philippines were held by All Asia for more than 180 days. The total amount, the same audit showed, exceeded 5 percent of the investment firm's net worth which was beyond the single borrower's limit.

The SEC, however, soon lifted the CDO on condition that the investment firm would raise additional capital, pay corresponding penalties for the non-registration of the commercial paper, follow the CP rule and single borrower's limit rule, and observe accounting procedures for financial intermediary.

Batangas plant wants to use Malampaya gas

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE OPERATOR of the 300-megawatt San Pascual co-genaration plant in Batangas is currently in talks with the government on the possibility of using Malampaya gas, the chief of Texaco Philippines Inc. said.

James Lejeune, managing director of Texaco Philippines, said in an interview last week that San Pascual's power purchase agreement with National Power Corp. would have to be amended if the plant would opt to use natural gas.

Texaco and Edision Mission Energy, also of the United States, have tied up to form San Pascual Cogen Co.

"We are currently negotiating with Napocor and the Psalm (on the matter)," Lejeune said.

Under the existing contract between San Pascual Cogen Co. and Napocor, the facility is supposed to use low sulfur waxy residium—a fuel derived from crude oil and is not locally available.

A source familiar with the matter explained that the contract provided for an eventual switch to the use of natural gas.

"What we are aiming for in the negotiations is to use natural gas from the very start of commissioning," the source told the INQUIRER.

He said construction work on the San Pascual plant, which is supposed to be commissioned in 2004, has yet to begin.

The government has a commitment with the Malampaya gas-to-power consortium to provide a ready market accounting for 3,000 megawatts.

So far, only three power plants with a total generating capacity of 2,700 mw will be using the gas.

San Pascual's 300-mw plant will complete the 3,000-mw commitment.

Shell Philippines Exploration BV earlier said it was currently setting up plans for an integrated pipeline and power plant project involving 600 mw of capacity.

Spex managing director David Greer said they were looking into the possibility of building a 600-megawatt gas-fired power plant in Sucat where a proposed 100-kilometer pipeline from Batangas would end.

"The new power plant will cost $600 million, including the costs of demolishing the old Sucat power plant and the clearing of the property," Greer explained.

Texaco and Spex have a 45-percent stake each in the Malampaya project.

The remaining 10 percent is held by state firm PNOC Exploration Corp.

REVIVING RP ECONOMY

A doable monetary policy prescription

BY DR. VICTOR S. LIMLINGAN

THAT the Philippine economy is moribund and needs to be revived, there can be no argument. That there are several public policies both fiscal and monetary that are theoretically available to policy makers, there can also be no argument.

The key issue really is the choice of the public policy prescription that is doable, effective and immediate.

COMMENTARY

Unlike other countries such as Singapore and Malaysia, the Philippines cannot resort to fiscal policies to revive the Philippine economy simply because the government is already in a deficit and has no accumulated surplus to draw upon.

This narrows down the policy options of the Philippine government to the monetary policies. Presently, the monetary prescription being pursued by the government is to defend the peso in the hope that this defense will insulate the Philippine economy from the economic downturn that is occurring outside our shores.

We argue that such a policy is no longer feasible given the events after Sept. 11, 2001.

Proposed policy prescription

We proposed that we adopt the monetary prescription of low interest rates. Moreover, given that the economy needs a jolt, we further propose that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas match the US Federal discount rate of 2.5 percent.

We submit that this monetary prescription is doable, effective and immediate.

The proposed monetary prescription is doable for the following reasons:

- Central banks all over the world have been lowering their discount rates and so the Philippines will merely be riding the trend.
- The BSP has a full complement of monetary tools that could bring down interest rates.
- The policy prescription can be adopted without breaching IMF conditions.

Policy effectiveness

We argue that the proposed monetary prescription will be effective as the beneficial side effects will far outweigh any possible ill effects.

Lowering the interest rate, will be a more effective public policy tool to revive the Philippine economy than the proposed bail out of our banks.

The public policy argument for bailing out our banks is that we must clean up the non-performing loans (NPLs) of banks so that they could be induced to lend again and so revive the economy.

We find such argument unconvincing for several reasons:

- Assuming without conceding that the bail-out will not be perceived as the government bailing out the rich and leaving the crumbs for the poor, we have the distinct possibility that the banks will simply get the government subsidy and still squeeze their debtors through onerous penalties and arbitrary foreclosures.

The implicit premise of this policy is that what will revive the Philippine economy is the revival of Philippine businesses. And the way to help Philippine businesses is to help Philippine banks that will, in turn, help Philippine businesses.

Why not help Philippine businesses directly by lowering the cost of their borrowings, especially their existing borrowing from banks? If some Philippine businesses will still not survive despite the lower interest rates, then, they have to be classified as non-performing assets.

- Assuming without conceding that the banks upon being bailed out by the government pass on the benefits to their debtors in terms of liberal restructuring plans, we still are not assured that they will pump-prime the economy given that:

a. Interest rates on government securities are high providing them a better alternative to lending to the private sector;

b. Having been burned once, they will be risk averse to lending to the private sector; and

c. The private sector faced with high interest rates will not expand their operations.

On the other hand, lower interest rates will allow some companies to return to profitability. And as only profitable companies consider expansion, this return to profitability may induce enough companies to expand or at least to reverse their downsizing plans and pump prime the economy.

Turning the argument on its head, that by lowering the interest rate, we will revive significant sectors of Philippine businesses that will then be able to pay off their loans to the banks. This will greatly reduce the non-performing loans of the banking system.

Lowering the interest rate will definitely revive two critical sectors, the housing sector and the agricultural sector.

With respect to the housing sector, the policy seems to be to bail out the developers by buying their delinquent loans. But the loans are delinquent because the homebuyers have to pay high interests on the loans. With lower interest rates, the loans become affordable and homebuyers can now pay off their loans.

With respect to the agricultural sector, which is in need of funds for modernization, we find that only the government is willing to fund its requirements for modernization. The private sector considers agricultural loans too risky. But risk calculation is a relative measure. Banks extend credit to credit card holders even if they are risky because the interest rates they charge are so high. Agricultural loans are risky because banks can get higher yield on less risky investments. If overall yield goes down, banks may be induced to lend to modernize the agricultural sector.

Lowering borrowing cost

The proposed monetary prescription will also have a beneficial effect on the government fiscal deficit. As the foreign debt market becomes more difficult to access, the government will more and more resort to local borrowings. By lowering the interest rates, government will pay less on its local borrowings.

The congressional planning and budget department estimated that every one-percent reduction in T-bill rates reduces the fiscal deficit by P 1.5 billion.

Possible ill effects

Among the possible ill effects of the proposed policy are the increase in the inflation rate and the further devaluation of the peso.

We argue that in this specific case, any increase in inflation, if any, will be minimal for the following reasons:

- Existing demand is weak and so businesses are wary of price increases;
- Additional demand when stimulated by low interest rates can easily be met as production capacity utilization is low; and
- Any attempt to increase prices by local producers is now tempered by our liberalized importation policies.

Further devaluation of the peso bears a more detailed exposition.

At present, the exchange rate of the Philippine peso is determined by market forces. So why should lowering of interest rates affect the peso? The answer lies in the so-called "hot money" or "interest rate arbitragers".

As the interest rate in the Philippines are higher than the interest rates in, say the United States, some foreign fund managers consider it worthwhile to convert their dollars into pesos, invest in our local T-bills and reap a higher yield. That is, of course, based on the assumption that the exchange rate is stable. If the interest rate differential between Philippine and US T-bills narrows or disappears altogether, then these funds will leave the Philippines and cause the foreign exchange rate to decline.

Our response to this fear is two fold. In the first place, we are under the impression that government policy is to discourage this "hot money" from entering the Philippines. So why are we sad when our new policy induces them to leave? In the second place, our policy is to have a foreign exchange rate that is market determined. Now, that we have a policy that will remove a major market distortion, why again are we sad?

In reality, objection to further devaluation of the peso is based on the adverse impact on those Philippine companies that made the bad business decisions to secure foreign loans.

Our response to this possible ill effect is three fold. In the first place, a deterioration of the peso would be beneficial to our exporters, our overseas contract workers and our agricultural sector. Right now, our farmers are losing the protection afforded by quantitative restrictions and high tariff rates. Their only available protection is the cheap peso. Thus, when the interest of these foreign debt borrowers clashes with the interest of this more numerous and more meritorious sectors, we argue that the government must favor the proposed policy.

In the second place, the dramatic devaluation of the peso from 26 to 52 to the dollar has so devastated the balance sheets of these corporations that any further devaluation will make no difference on their fate.

In the third place, the risks inherent to the peso devaluation do not arise primarily from this interest rate arbitrage phenomenon. Of greater risk and probability is that Japan will resort to the only public policy tool left to the government, the devaluation of the yen. And when that happens, the present policy of a strong peso will simply be overtaken by events.

(Dr. Limlingan is a professor at the Asian Institute of Management.)

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Companies urged to share profits with all workers

BAGUIO CITY—In the wake of the financial crisis, how can companies keep their employees' loyalty?

Share the company's yearly profit even with its lowest ranking employee, said the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

Management consultant Sandra Togonon, during PMAP's 38th national convention at the Baguio Country Club last week, urged the group's 2,000 member-companies to employ the profit-sharing scheme as an "acceptable reward pay system."

She said this would be an answer to calls for a wage increase and that it could also be used to keep their employees' loyalty.

Togonon said the sharing scheme should be based on the workers' performance as employees and as company partners who must share both the company's profits and losses.

She also suggested that the companies, depending on their financial capability, adopt incentive programs and variable pay systems (gain sharing and profit sharing) for their employees.

"What is important is that the company should make its employees believe that good performance entails more pay," she said.

The PMAP supported Togonon's statement by passing a resolution endorsing her suggestions to all its member-companies.

In the profit sharing scheme, the company sets aside funds intended for performance.

"(But the) actual pay out should not exceed at least 10 percent of the total profit (of the company for the year)," Togonon said.

Gain sharing is the distribution of gains in the form of bonuses and incentives. "It is usually a 50-50 sharing scheme but such a sharing scheme is sometimes too burdensome for the company," she said.

Togonon, however, lamented that firms in developing countries like the Philippines could not afford to provide a "decent" reward payment for their employees' good performances.

"It is impossible to give everybody a share of the pie," she said.

She said stiff global competition, slowdown in traditional markets like the United States and Japan, devaluation of the peso, huge government deficit or slowdown in government spending, and the rising cost of materials and services have been preventing companies to implement the profit sharing mechanism.

"With these pressing problems our companies are facing, our easiest way out is to reduce manpower. But with the performance-based pay system, retrenchment would be minimized (and) hopefully solve the problems of the labor sector," Togonan said.

"The risk is that the system is selective. Only those who are performing well would be given a share of the profit," she said. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

$8-B INDUSTRY

NTC seeking ways to combat telecom fraud

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission said it was studying ways to combat telecommunications fraud, as this has become "one of the fastest growing industries in the world."

NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview last week that telecommunications fraud was accounting for around $8 billion in lost revenues for the industry.

Rio said the government was looking into ways to monitor telecommunications fraud, but the issue should be more of a private sector initiative.

"It's mostly a private sector-led activity. They are the ones who have a need for this because they are the ones that lose money through telecom fraud," he said.

Rio said the NTC was studying the possibility of using police powers so it could react faster "to stop the crime and punish the culprits."

The commission is seeking a "technology-neutral" system of monitoring fraud, he said. This means the medium through which fraud is being committed will not matter, whether it is through the cellular system, a landline, the Internet or satellites, he explained.

Right now, the NTC can prosecute companies or individuals conducting illegal bypass activities and those operating illegal public calling offices.

For illegal activities that result in loss of income and property, on the other hand, the jurisdiction still remains with the National Bureau of Investigation and the courts.

The NTC also has close coordination and cooperation with the NBI's cybercrime units as telecommunications fraud has already extended to more sophisticated mediums like the Internet and satellites.

Rio said there was a need for laws that would be helpful in solving crimes committed over the Internet and telecommunications fraud.

Right now, no law governs these, he said. "The only applicable legislation is the e-commerce law."

NTC common carriers authorization department chief Edgardo Cabarios also stated in a presentation before members of the Forum for International Irregular Network Access that the NTC was trying its best to help come up with a bill on network access fraud.

"This was filed with Congress three years ago, but nothing came out of it. Some congressmen have already refiled the bill," he said.

Cabarios added that the NTC could only act on complaints filed by telecom companies as well as assist these companies in monitoring and tracking illegal network access as there was still "no specific law on telecom fraud."

Leading Philippine telecom firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., for its part, has developed its own system of fraud management.

"PLDT blended fraud management functions with revenue assurance activities. With this, we were able to focus not only on fraud and revenue leaks, but also on the integrity of our billing system," PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in a speech before leaders of different telecommunication firms.

He added that PLDT's system, built around its revenue assurance sector, has had a direct impact on the company's bottom line.

"Last year alone, RAS was able to prevent possible losses of approximately P3.3 billion," he reported.

DOE says joint venture for gas pipeline possible

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said last week a joint venture among the many firms interested in the Batangas-Manila gas pipeline was possible.

The 100-kilometer pipeline, industry sources say, will cost between $80 million and $110 million.

"The decision on who will develop the project rests on the Department of Energy, but there will be no bidding. This will likely be a joint venture," Perez said in an interview.

The government will have to sit down with all the players to see what their interests are, he said.

Perez said a number of British, Japanese, Malaysian and local companies had expressed interest in the project.

"What is important is that the pipeline cannot be built until there is a major demand in Manila," he said.

He explained that industries located along the pipeline's path represented too little demand to justify the development of a pipeline.

Summit Securities held liable for stock scam

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has come up with initial findings that Summit Securities Inc. manipulated the share prices of Liberty Telecoms Inc.

An audit conducted by the SEC's broker and dealer division showed that Summit Securities, owned by Philippine Stock Exchange governor Harry Liu, committed trading irregularities in the form of matched orders when it executed cross trading and settlement transactions on behalf of customers trading Liberty shares.

Matched orders are illegal. These transactions happen when someone places buy or sell orders for a stock knowing that buy or sell orders of the same size and price will be placed at the same time.

The SEC broker and dealer division recommended that its findings be endorsed to the compliance and enforcement department for further investigation.

"A review of order tickets indicated that cross trading of both the buy and sell transactions were made on the same time of the day for the said issue. Likewise, parties were somewhat related because the sellers have stockholdings in the buyers, which were all corporations whose paid up capital ranged from P1 million to P12.5 million and were incorporated from Feb. 28 to July 12 this year," the brokers division reported.

"No actual payments were made for the buy transactions by the buyers and no remittance was done by the subject company to the sellers," it added.

Between June 21 and Aug. 13 this year, Liberty shares were heavily traded as a result of several pre-negotiated buying and selling, or "cross-sales," all of which were done solely by Summit Securities.

Liberty reported that 485.6 million shares were "disposed" of by three officers in several transactions recorded in July at 48 to 49 centavos a share. The acquiring party of investor was not identified.

An official of the SEC said the Moreno and Quioge groups and corporations with interlocking directors apparently participated in the cross transactions.

Liberty president and chair Raymond Moreno gave up 91.5 million shares, senior vice president Edgardo Quioge, 194.3 million shares, and executive vice president Rene Domingo, 199.8 million shares, bringing their respective stakes in the telecommunications firm down to 18.227 percent, 0.015 percent and 0.014 percent.

Agri auction for US surplus goods fail

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture's first attempt to make money out of surplus commodity loans obtained from the United States has failed as traders have tendered bids lower than price ceilings set by the government.

Bidders comprised mostly of feed miller companies led by San Miguel Corp. and Vitarich Corp. These companies priced their bids lower by an average of $40 to $114 per metric ton for corn, feed peas and soybean meal.

The lower bids prompted the National Agricultural and Fishery Council to declare bids for some 114,000 metric tons of corn, feed peas and soybean meal from the United States as a failure, as it expected to earn not less than P10 billion from the auction.

The shipments are part of the $40-million commodity loan program acquired by the Philippine government from the United States through the US Public Law 480 program.

The PL 480-commodity loan program allows a government to acquire and sell US surplus commodities and use proceeds from the exercise to finance government farm projects.

The entry of agricultural commodities, especially corn, will ease a corn supply shortfall in the Philippines, which has seen about 140,000 metric tons of corn damaged by recent typhoons.

This will, in turn, lower production costs incurred by feed miller groups, who use corn and soybean meal and feed peas in their products.

The agriculture department has even asked the Department of Finance to waive tariffs slapped on incoming shipments of rice, corn, feed peas and soybean meal from the United States.

The tariff-free importation of these commodities will entice local buyers and traders to purchase these agricultural products from the agriculture department and sell them locally.

Urban execs responsible for closure

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has placed the blame for the closure of Urban Bank Inc. squarely on its former president, Teodoro Borlongan Jr., and chair, Arsenio Bartolome III.

"It bears stress that what precipitated the closure (of Urban Bank) was the declaration of a bank holiday by the bank's principal officials (Borlongan and Bartolome) concurred in by the directors," Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said in a decision on a complaint lodged against the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by former Quezon City Congressman Michael Defensor.

Defensor had accused former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo and other members of the Monetary Board, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Buenaventura, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes and 12 other central bank officials of closing Urban Bank and its thrift and investment units illegally, with undue haste and under "suspicious" circumstances.

Desierto concluded that there was no reason to proceed with a criminal case against Pardo, Buenaventura, Reyes and the others accused because Defensor, apart from "lacking legal personality," also lodged a complaint that was "premature" and "inadequate."

In a 12-page ruling penned by graft investigation officer Rogelio Ringpis, the Office of the Ombudsman upheld the central bank's findings that Urban Bank, when it was shut down on April 26 last year, was already bleeding to death because of Borlongan's and Bartolome's efforts to bail out Urbancorp Investments Inc.

The Ombudsman upheld reports prepared by the BSP's Supervising and Examination Sector that Urban Bank suffered cash problems when Borlongan authorized the purchase of over P4.6 billion worth of "garbage" loans to save Urbancorp Investments.

The SES reports also provided details about liquidity problems that hit Urban Bank when its foray into real estate suffered huge setbacks.

"We are more inclined to give more credit to the position of the defense for it was shown that indeed the questioned reports are truly reflective of the precarious situation then of the three closed firms, which even the closed firms' principal officials and directors recognized when they themselves opted to declare a bank holiday."

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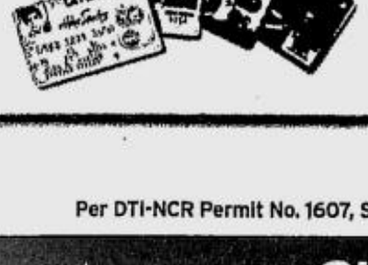

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CITIBANK

Steel firm to block new NSC deal

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

ALLENGOAL Steel Fabrication Trading Co., a company owned by Cagayan de Oro businessman Alexander Delmo, has vowed to put up legal barriers to prevent the government from implementing a lease contract for the reopening of National Steel Corp. with investors other than itself.

But the Department of Trade and Industry, head of the evaluation committee overseeing tomorrow's scheduled submission of offers, was unfazed as Malaysia's debt rehabilitation agency Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Berhad reaffirmed its support for the process to get an interim investor by assigning its own representative (Lim Hong Tat of Maybank) to the evaluation committee.

Allengoal claimed that a lease contract it signed last year with Hottick Investment-Renong (majority owners of NSC) was valid and that it would exhaust all legal means to block moves to review other offers or enforce a lease contract with another party.

Allengoal's contract proposed to lease (at less than P20 million a month) NSC facilities for at least two years and rehabilitate and operate the steel giant's production lines at no cost to the company. The contract can be mutually pre-terminated if NSC finds a suitable long-term buyer. Allengoal will put up P100 million cash deposit and performance bond.

Aside from the monthly lease payments, NSC is also given an option to get at least 40-percent share of the net profits after Allengoal has recovered all its rehabilitation costs or on the 13th month of the lease agreement, whichever comes first.

Hottick-Renong had earlier warned the DTI that the NSC bidding would be mire in legal obstacles if Allengoal would not participate in tomorrow's submission of bids.

The DTI, however, shrugged off Allengoal's claim, saying it was baseless noting that the liquidator which has taken over the bankrupt firm's assets thumbed down the deal and the Securities and Exchange Commission has likewise declared it as null and void.

In a letter to Danaharta, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas chided Hottick-Renong for its constant advocacy of the Allengoal deal that revealed its specific bias for the Filipino firm. The company's ability to operate NSC has been questioned by creditor banks that are trying to recover some of the P16 billion they extended to the company. He said Hottick-Renong had agreed to the terms of reference and timetable set by the committee in choosing an investor.

Danaharta had earlier ordered Hottick-Renong to go back to the committee in order to put back on track the process of finding a mutually acceptable investor that would run NSC on an interim basis while owners and creditors sort out their differences and find a long-term investor.

Roxas reckoned that Danaharta's designation of a representative on the committee with observer status would help ensure the integrity and transparency of the process and shield it from legal obstacles.

The government still has a 12-percent interest in NSC but it is more concerned about the loss opportunities in terms of government revenues and employment from the protracted closure of NSC, which has been idle since November 1999.

GOINGS-ON

DFSI's new name

DADIANGAS Fishing Supply Inc. (DFSI), one of General Santos City's premier companies engaged in hardware and fishing materials, now sports a new name, RD Hardware and Fishing Supply Inc.

The change is in line with the company's efforts to improve its operations and observe quality selling to cope with trends in the hardware and fishing supply business. The change enables the company to fully implement its objective of "engaging in the business of manufacturing, buying-selling, importing, exporting, exchanging or otherwise dealing in general hardware and construction materials and supplies, fishing equipment, engines and other items."

RD Hardware plans to operate and maintain ice plants, factory fuel tanks and other operations related to its main line of business.

Cebu Pacific's new plane

CEBU Pacific Air recently acquired from US Airways a McDonnel Douglas DC9-32, the first Stage-3 aircraft in its fleet.

A Stage-3 status indicates compliance to aircraft noise restrictions set by the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) of the United States. In the Philippines, the Air Transportation Office (ATO) wants all Stage-2 aircraft to be phased out, or to be Stage 3-compliant by the year 2006.

With the acquisition of the DC9-32, the 12th such aircraft in its fleet, Cebu Pacific is optimistic that it will be able to comply with the ATO's requirement that at least 25 percent of the airline's fleet be made up of Stage-3 planes by the year 2003.

SMC inks $200-M loan

SAN MIGUEL Corp. signed in Hong Kong on Oct. 17 a $200-million senior unsecured term loan facility to refinance the company's term loan which is falling due in November 2002.

Large multinational banks received the SMC facility extremely well despite the volatility in the regional and global capital markets. General syndication for the facility was canceled since it was heavily oversubscribed in the sub-underwriter phase.

SMC senior management, led by Faustino F. Galang, beer division president, and Ferdinand K. Constantino, chief finance officer, attended the signing of the facility, along with representatives of the participating banks.

JP Morgan acted as the sole book-runner for the facility. Of the total 19 banks that participated in the transaction, 16 joined as senior arrangers and three as arrangers.

Global fragility highlighted in latest reports

WASHINGTON—Grim economic news from leading economies in Europe and Asia on Friday have highlighted the damage that the attacks on US cities have done to a world where activity has been slowing even before Sept. 11.

Germany's closely watched Ifo business climate indicator showed its sharpest monthly fall for almost 28 years in the first reading based on data taken entirely after hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa finally conceded that the Japanese economy looked set to show negative growth in the current fiscal year.

"I have tried my best to avoid negative growth but given global conditions, it seems likely that the Japanese economy will contract," he told a Tokyo news conference.

A US recession is also in the cards. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis president William Poole said on Thursday that while a recession was not a certainty, "We should not be surprised if that is the outcome."

"It's clear that there will be a significant further slowing of economic activity in more or less all regions of the world," Andrew Crockett, general manager of the Bank for International Settlements, told Reuters in an interview.

But if a recession is growing more likely in the world's richest economy, newly released inflation data left policymakers room for maneuver.

A spike in gasoline prices in the United States pushed consumer prices up 0.4 percent in September, the sharpest rise in four months. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, inflation rose a modest 0.2 percent. Economists said that left room for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates further to try and bolster the flagging economy.

The US outlook was further clouded on Friday by ongoing fears from cases of the potentially lethal anthrax bacteria, something that again weighed on stocks. US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said it was too soon to know whether the scare would have significant economic impact.

The Ifo survey saw the key western Germany index drop to 85 last month from 89.5.

The drop was its sharpest monthly fall since the 1973 oil crisis and took it to near eight-year lows. The forward-looking business expectations index dropped to 79.6 points from 83.2.

"No one expected this. The decline in the expectations index is particularly disappointing, showing there is no glimmer of hope," said Christoph Hausen, an economist at Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

However, Gernot Nerb, the economist in charge of the index, warned against jumping to conclusions from one month's figures that might have been caused by an over-reaction to the shock of events in the United States.

"I would certainly not expect a continuation of this (negative) trend next month," he said.

The figures added to pressure on the European Central Bank to cut interest rates at its meeting Thursday.

At a one-day summit in Ghent, Belgium, European Union heads of government deleted a call in the draft communiqué "for monetary authorities to take further decisive action" because it would have put undue pressure on the ECB.

But the statement still said reduced inflation would "give room for maneuver to monetary policy."

ECB council member Ernst Welteke, president of Germany's Bundesbank, said politicians were expecting too much from interest rate moves.

"The claim of politicians that monetary policy has room for maneuver and should use it, clearly overestimates its possibilities to influence economic developments," he told reporters in Regensburg, Germany.

Welteke earlier told an academic audience it would take time for the euro zone economy to recover. *Reuters*

A WORKER finishes his shift at the Rolls Royce plant at Hillington near Glasgow. The world's second-largest aircraft engine maker has announced that it will cut 5,000 jobs globally after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. REUTERS

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	₱ 1,105,740,862
Due from Bangko Sentral	2,269,650,474
Due from Other Banks	1,542,893,215
Interbank Loans Receivable	1,660,298,250
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)	1,108,107,419
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	21,357,284,299
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	36,989,365,064
Equity Investments (Net)	233,670,932
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	3,001,426,735
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	3,191,213,777
Others	3,990,362,364
TOTAL ASSETS	₱ 76,450,013,391

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	₱ 6,824,110,775
Savings Deposits	26,035,604,285
Time Deposits	21,939,293,395
Special/Other Deposits	118,624,729
Due to Bangko Sentral	17,875,596
Due to Banks	4,260,567
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	236,493,592
Bills Payable	5,241,105,401
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	472,991,942
Other Liabilities	3,138,922,161
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱ 64,029,282,443

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	₱ 2,537,784,300
Surplus	7,801,017,027
Surplus Reserves	223,910,986
Other Capital Accounts	1,858,018,635
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 12,420,730,948
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 76,450,013,391

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		₱ 1,576,417,477
Bills for Collection		327,364,399
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		160,117,144
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		3,352,748,667
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		26,114,767,244
Invested In:		
Government Securities	₱20,243,338,617	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	963,999,568	
Loans and Discounts	2,809,274,325	
Other Assets	2,098,154,734	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	22,887,557,538	
Common Trust Funds	560,399,684	
Investment/Fund Management	2,581,097,790	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	85,712,232	
Other contingent accounts		2,218,481,655
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		₱ 33,749,896,586

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:		
A) Government		P 74,851,829
B) Banks		164,495,470
C) Trust department		11,420,573
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	*Prescribed Ratio of Compliance* *6% For Small Ent.*	*2% For Medium Ent.*
Actual Compliance	216%	697%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		6,245,691,773
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		15.08%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		8,562,862,908
6. General provision for loan losses		1,005,399,826
7. Specific provision for loan losses		1,667,085,335
8. Return on Equity		7.97%
9. DOSRI loans/advances		2,833,419,185
10. Ratio to total loan portfolio		6.84%
11. Past due DOSRI loans/advances		124,899,896
12. Ratio to total loan portfolio		0.30%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, RICARDO R. CHUA and PETER S. DEE , of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer

(Sgd.) PETER S. DEE
President &
Chief Executive Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this Oct 16, 2001, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 00676998 issued at Manila on April 03, 2001 and Residence Certificate No. 09296238 issued at Manila on February 22, 2001, respectively.

Doc. No. 227
Page No. 47
Book No. 22
Series of 2001

(Sgd.) RAFAEL O. ORENCIA
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2001
PTR No. 1970811 Q.C. 1/2/01
TIN 113-345-806

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	₱ 1,119,408,739
Due from Bangko Sentral	2,269,650,474
Due from Other Banks	1,542,893,215
Interbank Loans Receivable	1,660,298,250
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)	1,108,107,419
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	21,427,480,173
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	36,989,365,064
Equity Investments (Net)	179,170,932
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	3,001,769,489
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	3,191,487,530
Others	4,007,798,186
TOTAL ASSETS	₱ 76,497,429,471

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	₱ 6,824,110,775
Savings Deposits	26,035,604,285
Time Deposits	21,939,293,395
Special/Other Deposits	118,624,729
Due to Bangko Sentral	17,875,596
Due to Banks	4,260,567
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	236,493,592
Bills Payable	5,241,105,401
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	493,384,712
Other Liabilities	3,161,399,388
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱ 64,072,152,440
Minority Interest in Subsidiary	₱ 4,545,083

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	₱ 2,537,784,300
Surplus	7,801,017,027
Surplus Reserves	223,910,986
Other Capital Accounts	1,858,018,635
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 12,420,730,948
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 76,497,429,471

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		₱ 1,576,417,477
Bills for Collection		327,364,399
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		160,117,144
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		3,352,748,667
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		26,114,767,244
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Government Securities	₱20,243,338,617	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	963,999,568	
Loans and Discounts	2,809,274,325	
Other Assets	2,098,154,734	
Accountabilities:		
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Common Trust Funds	560,399,684	
Investment/Fund Management	2,581,097,790	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	85,712,232	
Other contingent accounts		2,218,481,655
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		₱ 33,749,896,586

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
A) Government	₱ 74,851,829
B) Banks	164,495,470
C) Trust Department	11,420,573

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
A) CBC Venture Capital Corporation
B) CBC FOREX CORPORATION
C) CBC INSURANCE BROKERS, INC.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, RICARDO R. CHUA and PETER S. DEE , of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President &
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(Sgd.) PETER S. DEE
President &
Chief Executive Officer

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Doc. No. 226
Page No. 47
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Series of 2001

(Sgd.) RAFAEL O. ORENCIA
Notary Public
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No sign of US economic health

NEW YORK—A slight narrowing in the huge US trade deficit in August suggested the US economy was not as weak as feared this summer, but analysts cautioned this was not a sign of future economic health.

Most economists were expecting a contraction during the June-September period, with the closely watched blue-chip survey of 44 US economists taken after the Sept. 11 attacks forecasting a 0.5-percent decline in gross domestic product.

Many Wall Street analysts said on Friday that they would revise their GDP forecasts—the trade data could result in a maximum 0.5-percent upward revision, they said—which would still leave expectations flat or negative.

That would mark the first interruption in the longest period of US economic expansion, which has lasted more than a decade.

US GDP grew by a paltry 0.3 percent, annualized, in the second quarter. That compared with a robust 5.7 percent during the same period in 2000.

International trade figures published Friday showed the trade gap in August narrowed to $27.11 billion from a revised $29.17 billion in July. That came, in part, from a mild rise in exports, up $0.9 billion to $84.5 billion during the month, as exports to China hit a record $1.92 billion.

But imports fell for a fifth straight month as US demand for foreign goods weakened.

"This report indicates the foreign sector provided some buffer for the economy against the deterioration in domestic demand and inventory behavior," said John Youngdahl, senior economist at Goldman Sachs, in a note to clients Friday .

"That will help offset other data suggesting deeper weakness in US spending and production," he said.

But while the trade deficit will continue to narrow as weakening US demand thins the inflow of imported goods, economists said both imports and exports are likely to fall in the future—a sign of broad economic weakness, not strength.

"As the trade deficit narrows, it will add to GDP," said Steven Wood, chief economist at FinancialOxygen in Walnut Creek, California. "But because both imports and exports are falling, it is not a sign of economic health."

US exports will most likely fall away in the months ahead as foreign demand for US goods slows—particularly if the strong dollar, which makes US-made products more expensive relative to other countries, maintains its strength.

News on Friday that the closely-watched Ifo German business confidence index took its biggest one-month fall in nearly 28 years in September, along with an apparent reluctance by the European Central Bank to cut interest rates, does not bode well for the health of Europe's economy, economists also warned.

"It was certainly a good result in that exports were up, it shows there was demand abroad," said Kathy Bostjancic, economist at Merrill Lynch in Jersey City, New Jersey, shortly after August's trade deficit figures were released.

"But when you see the Ifo survey, and the ECB is reluctant to stimulate the economy, that's going to impact (US) exports." *Reuters*

Corporate America ax spending

NEW YORK—Corporate America is showing few signs of getting over the combined shock of the economic downturn and the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Capital spending plans are far from back on track, according to companies reporting quarterly earnings in the past week.

The lowest interest rates since the administration of President John F. Kennedy have been insufficient to fire up new borrowing and spending plans as many businesses cut jobs and spending in a fight for survival.

Companies say they are waiting for a clear indication that consumer confidence has returned before taking their expansion plans back off the shelf.

"At this point, a lot of companies are just facing pure survival issues," said Jason Trennert, managing director at the International Strategy and Investment Group in New York. "They might realize it's important to invest in new capital, but they just don't have that choice."

Among those who said they were continuing to tighten their purse strings were long-distance telephone company Sprint Corp., truck part and industrial controls maker Eaton Corp. and optical fiber maker Corning Inc.

"As intriguing as interest rates and things of that nature are for expansion, companies are tending to hold off until at least the end of the year," said Jay Brunson, manager of the food and beverage industry group at Houston-based Industrial Information Resources.

And, analysts say, firms are focusing what little spending there is on areas with proven returns, rather than on expansion into new areas.

"It's not to say capital spending is going to disappear," Trennert said. "It's just that corporate managers are likely to be very, very careful. They're going to want to know that there's actually going to be some sort of return."

For example, Sprint cut spending estimates for its long-distance unit to about $5.4 billion from $5.9 billion, but raised estimates for its PCS unit, the nation's fourth-biggest wireless telephone company, to $3.6 billion from $3.4 billion.

Sprint PCS had record subscriber growth and stronger network usage in the third quarter, while Sprint Corp.—the No. 3 US long-distance telephone company—posted a quarterly net loss and announced 6,000 job cuts.

Automotive interiors maker Johnson Controls Inc., which also makes systems to regulate building environments, lowered its 2002 capital spending estimate down by about $25 million, compared with 2001 to $600 million to $625 million.

The company's auto components-making unit—exposed to the struggling US auto industry—is far more capital-intensive than its building controls unit, Johnson Controls spokesperson Denise Zutz said, making growth in the controls unit much easier and cheaper to attain.

To be sure, capital spending in sectors traditionally viewed as defensive may rise. Spending at the Top 45 publicly held US food and beverage companies should reach about $11 billion for 2001, up 1.1 percent from projections for 2000, according to IIR.

But in the high-tech sector, things look different. Sprint headlined the list of companies abandoning expansionary plans this week when it scrapped its high-speed network project.

"Obviously, technology became a much bigger part of capital spending over the last several years," ISI's Trennert said. "I think one of the problems is that the rate of innovation has slowed pretty dramatically, so the returns are quite a bit less."

With the slower US economy, falling rates of return on expenditures and a bleak outlook from manufacturers for the fourth quarter, the chances for a return to investment spending in the next few months are small.

But lower interest rates—in combination with potential government incentives to promote new capital spending on technology and equipment—could help get corporate cash flowing, Trennert said.

And lower energy costs and a rise in mortgage refinancing, which has increased consumers' financial liquidity, could also stabilize consumer spending and work up into the economy through its roots, he added. *Reuters*

Social Security benefits to rise 2.6%

WASHINGTON—More than 50 million elderly or disabled Americans will receive a 2.6-percent increase in their monthly benefits starting in 2002, the US government said on Friday.

Supplemental Security Incomes, awarded to people on a low income who are over 65 or disabled, will rise in line with inflation, acting Commissioner of Social Security Larry Massanari said in a statement.

The SSI hike means retired workers will receive an average of $874 a month from January 2002, compared with the present $852.

"Inflation continues to be low which is certainly good news for the elderly and disabled. Inflation is one of the biggest challenges for people living on a fixed income," Massanari said.

The US labor department reported earlier the consumer price index—the broadest available gauge of national inflation—was 2.6 percent for the 12 months to September 2001. But the month-on-month figure of 0.4 percent was stronger than expected and the largest increase since May.

Social Security also announced tax increases for those at the high-earning end of the spectrum, which will affect about 10.5 million of the 154 million working Americans.

In 2002 the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax will increase to $84,900 from $80,400. This means high-earning employees will pay an added $279 a year, and self-employed workers will contribute an extra $558. *Reuters*

Planet Hollywood back in bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES—Unable to whip star appeal into a winning restaurant recipe, Planet Hollywood filed again for bankruptcy on Friday, saying the unwanted sequel was prompted by a sharp drop in tourist business after Sept. 11.

The operator of brash movie-themed restaurants, once-backed by the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis, said business contracted suddenly in recent weeks at its remaining restaurants, including New York's Times Square, Disney World and the Las Vegas Strip.

Orlando, Florida-based Planet Hollywood, which emerged from a prior bankruptcy in January 2000, was pushed back into bankruptcy court on Friday with $133 million in debt against $121 million in assets, chief executive Robert Earl told Reuters.

Planet Hollywood said it did not intend to close any restaurants as part of its reorganization, and that it would go ahead with plans for outlets in Tokyo Disneyland and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The company, once valued at $3.5 billion on the day of a smash 1996 initial public offering, struggled to find repeat customers after an aggressive expansion. Critics blamed a glut of themed restaurants, including the Hard Rock Cafe chain, and an uninspired menu.

The first reorganization pared the chain back to 10 locations, including three in Europe, and left it to license the franchise to operators of another 25, Earl said. *Reuters*

Weak growth in Europe seen

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund has cut its economic growth forecast for the 12-nation euro zone for next year to the lowest in almost a decade to take account of economic aftershocks from the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, IMF sources said on Friday.

In its annual assessment of the euro zone economy, to be released in about two weeks, the international lender will also endorse the European Central Bank's monetary policy actions to date, but will call for further rate cuts soon, sources on the IMF's board told Reuters.

"The report concluded that there is probably scope for further interest rate cuts soon," one board member said, noting the IMF's board endorsed the ECB's monetary policy actions to date. "Staff agreed with the ECB that they were on the curve, they are not behind the curve, but that there is probably scope for further cuts coming up soon."

The ECB was praised in the report for liquidity injections and for lowering interest rates in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.

"The majority basically said that, everything the ECB has done so far is correct, but there is probably more easing scope down the road," another IMF board member said.

The call for lower interest rates came at a time when many in Europe are already pressing for such a move. The IMF board regularly calls for lower ECB interest rates but European directors at the IMF often take a more cautious stance. However, IMF sources said, at Friday's discussion many European IMF directors joined the call for lower interest rates.

Earlier, at a one-day summit in Ghent, Belgium, European Union heads of government deleted a call in the draft communique "for monetary authorities to take further decisive action" because it would have put undue pressure on the ECB.

But the statement still said that reduced inflation would "give room for maneuver to monetary policy."

Sources said IMF staff had downgraded growth prospects for the region to 1.7 percent for this year, down from a September estimate of 1.8 percent, and slashed its forecast for 2002 to 1.6 percent from an earlier estimate of 2.2 percent.

If the IMF's 1.6 percent forecast for 2002 pans out, it would mark the worst performance in the region since 1993, when the region's economy contracted 0.4 percent.

But staff cautioned the IMF's board "the margin of error could be quite large" on its latest growth estimates for the euro zone given the fluid state of economies as the economic effects of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States continues to unfold.

The report also urges leading European economies to relax fiscal policy—foregoing nominal deficit targets set in Europe's Stability and Growth pact—to allow them to spend more to bolster short-term growth prospects at a time when all major areas in the global economy are slowing.

Fiscal policy was the biggest issue in the report, which calls on Europe to modify its fiscal policy.

Under the Stability and Growth Pact, economies must meet a nominal deficit target—something that has led most euro-zone countries close to fiscal balance. Under the current rule, if economies slow, and government revenues decline, fiscal policy must be tightened to keep within the nominal deficit target.

But IMF staff argued in the report that, in the current environment, governments should spend more and not try and meet nominal deficit targets in the short-term, while still maintaining medium-term fiscal targets.

A number of European directors on the IMF's board objected to that view, saying they should not change rules that had been instrumental in improving the region's fiscal position in recent years.

Underlying just how difficult the it is to forecast growth in the current climate, economic data released in Germany Friday led some on the IMF's board to believe that even the latest IMF forecasts may be too optimistic. *Reuters*

Gillette net income down 16% in Q3

NEW YORK—Gillette Co., the world's largest razor and blade maker, said on Friday its third-quarter net income fell 16 percent, but the stock rallied as sales came in higher than some analysts expected.

Earnings declined as the maker of Duracell batteries, Oral-B toothbrushes and Mach 3 razors continued to reduce retailers' inventories and increase marketing. While these efforts carry costs that cut into near-term profitability, analysts expect them to pay off in the long run.

Banc of America Securities consumer products analyst William Steele noted the company's lower inventories, increased marketing and improved balance sheet.

"This is as healthy a trend as I've seen in Gillette for at least three years," Steele said.

Gillette shares rose $1.58 to $31.30 at the close of trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Boston company posted net income of $296 million, or 28 cents a share, down from $350 million, or 33 cents a share, a year earlier.

Analysts had forecast earnings of 25 cents to 31 cents a share, with an average estimate of 28 cents, according to research firm Thomson Financial/First Call.

Revenue rose 2 percent to $2.36 billion, beating expectations of some analysts who had actually expected a decline.

In January, Gillette hired James Kilts as chair and chief executive after suffering through several quarters of declining market share for Duracell, increasing inventory and other issues.

Analysts said steps Kilts has put in place, including spending more to drive sales and shipping less to retailers to reduce inventory, seem to be showing signs of success. *Reuters*

Nokia reports lower profits on weak sales

HELSINKI, Finland—Nokia, the world's largest cell phone maker, reported lower profits and sales for the third quarter but said the market will stabilize before the end of the year.

Its profit skidded 79 percent to 186 million euros ($168 million), or 0.04 euros per share, for the July-September period compared with 892 million euros, or 0.19 euros per share, last year, the company based in Espoo near Helsinki said Friday.

But excluding one-time charges, its earnings were down only 18 percent to 760 million euros ($685 million), or 0.16 euros per share.

That was at the high end of the company's forecasts of 0.14 euros to 0.16 euros per share.

Net sales fell 7 percent to 7.05 billion euros ($6.84 billion) from 7.58 billion euros a year earlier. In September, Nokia warned that it expected a sales decline of some 5 percent.

Chief executive Jorma Ollila said he expects market conditions would stabilize and the company expects to reach a 40-percent share of mobile phone sales worldwide.

In a teleconference with analysts, Ollila said Nokia would be helped by the recent launch of several new models as well as the market stabilization.

Nokia's share price rose 5.6 percent Friday on the Helsinki Stock Exchange. Its US shares traded rose 7 percent, or $1.32 a share, to close at $20.10 on the New York Stock Exchange. *AP*

Verdict against automaker thrown out

RICHMOND, Va.—A federal appeals court Friday threw out a $259-million verdict for the parents of a South Carolina boy killed in the crash of a Dodge minivan, ruling that DaimlerChrysler Corp. did not misrepresent the vehicle's safety.

A three-judge panel of the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a jury's $250-million punitive damages judgment and ordered a new trial on $9 million in compensatory damages.

The appeals court said the jury in the new trial must be allowed to hear evidence that 6-year-old Sergio Jimenez II was not wearing his seat belt when he was ejected from a minivan and was killed. US District Judge Falcon B. Hawkins erroneously excluded that evidence in the first trial, the court said.

"The most tragic thing about this case is that Sergio's death could have so easily been prevented if he had been wearing his seat belt," DaimlerChrysler vice president Ken Gluckman said in a written statement. "The appeals court today struck a blow for common sense and fairness in the courtroom."

John Jeffries, attorney for Sergio Jimenez, had left his office and was unavailable for comment when the ruling was issued late Friday afternoon. *AP*

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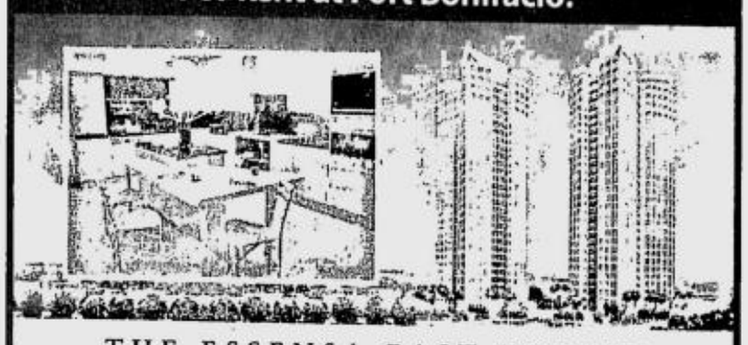

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Thank You Holy Spirit-RSRV

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit, You who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal, You who give the divine gift to forgive & forget the wrong that is done to me & who, in all instances of my life, is with me. I, in this dialogue, want to thank you for everything & confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You & may love ones in your perpetual glory. Amen

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Nieves Ruiz Vda de Cacnio

November 6, 1916 - October 20, 2001
84 years old
(Wife of the late **ALFREDO TEJUCO CACNIO JR.**)

Her beloved children **Ismael, Rebecca, Alfredo III, Lorenzo** (†), **Bernadette, David, Jose, Nieves, Carmen** and **Concepcion**; grandchildren, in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati. Transfer of remains to Jersey City, NJ, to be announced later.

CO HO (SY SIONG PEK)

Born on January 20, 1918

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 21, 2001.

His dearest wife **PACITA SY**; children **SUSAN & EUGENE** (†), **ANDY & NANCY, ELLEN & JOHN, JOSEPH & IRENE, VICTOR & GRACE**; grandchildren **CHRISTOPHER, EUGENE JR., JANNETH, ANJOVIC, ELY JEVON, CHERRY MAY, ABBA, JOHN JR., PATRICIA, PAMELA, VINCENT, VANCE** and **VERNON**; great granddaughter **PRINCESS**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 25, 2001, after 6:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Rufina B. Beredo Vda. De Cabrera

of Alangilan, Batangas City and San Juan, Metro Manila

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 19, 2001 at the age of 87 in Mediatrix Hospital, Lipa City.

Her bereaved children, daughter-in-law **Zenaida (Baby), Cezar & Lydia, Cecilio & May, Marieta & Boy, Oscar & Rita, Rassy & Elena**; brother and wife **Jose "Peping" & Milagros "Ging"** and children **Marry Rose** and **Allan** and daughter **Angelica**; sisters **Pacing & Regina**; grandchildren **Maricel, Joseph, Federico III, Jeffrey, Michael, Benedict, Kurt Rancel, Crisel, Melissa, Marlien, Ralph, Julius "Jay-Jay", Dustin, Borgy, Barry, Patrick, Camille**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, Alangilan, Batangas City.

Interment will be on October 25, 2001 at the Eternal Garden, Memorial Park, Batangas City.

Mass will start at 3:00 PM at St. Mary Euphrassia, Parish Church, Batangas City.

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"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:10

BENJAMIN LIM BIN
(Sy Chan Yat)

February 18, 1915 - October 20, 2001

Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 86.

His loving wife **CHUA UANG**, children **JOHNSON** (†) **& LINA, PETER & ELIZABETH, BELEN & MANNY, SEVERINO & JONALYN**, and **WILSON & VICKY**; grandchildren **JOANNA, JACKSON, JERRY, KARL, AINNA, MICHAEL, ZELLYN, BENJIE, LESLY, JULES, BEA, JULIA, SARAH** and **STEPHANIE**; and other relatives and friends request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 28, 2001, 1:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas.

"We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to love... and then we return Home."

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DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
(JFMH-PBEC)

October 19, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Dr. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (JFMH-PBEC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB) with a minimum license category of "D/registration "SMALL B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the **EXPANSION OF HOSPITAL PHARMACY PROJECT, DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**, located at Lope de Vega Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Pre-C Forms shall be made available to contractors classified above upon submission of Letter of Intent, latest PCAB license from October 24-30, 2001 at the Administrative Office, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Lope de Vega Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Bring original copies of PCAB license for authentication.

Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification statements is on November 5-7, 2001. JFMH-PBEC shall post the list of pre-qualified and pre-disqualified contractors-applicants on November 9, 2001 at JFMH-PBEC's Bulletin Board.

Dates for the issuance of Bid/tender documents to pre-qualified contractors, pre-bid and public bidding are as follows:

1. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents — **November 12-13, 2001**
2. Pre-Bid Conference — **November 20, 2001, 2:00 p.m., Reception Hall**
3. Public Bidding — **November 27, 2001, 1:00 p.m., Reception Hall**

Complete set of bid/tender documents may be purchased by interested pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos Only (3,000.00).

JFMH-PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposals as evaluated by JFMH-PBEC is the most advantageous to the government. JFMH-PBEC assume no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIETA R. SIONGCO, M.D.**
Chief, Medical Professional Staff II
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Oct. 20, 21 & 22, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE
Bids and Awards Committee
Building No. 3, San Lazaro Comp., Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. TL 743-83-01 Local 1336, Telefax No. (632) 743-72-36

October 8, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "D and C" and registration of "Small B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project Proposed Health Emergency Management Staff (HEMS) Office located at East Avenue Medical Center, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The dates to be followed are:

1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License and issuance of eligibility documents		October 23, 2001
2. Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents		October 30, 2001
3. Posting of eligible contractors		November 09, 2001
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents		November 12-13, 2001
5. Pre-bid conference		November 16, 2001
6. Submission of Bids (Deadline)	10:00 AM	November 29, 2001
7. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM	November 29, 2001

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairperson, Ground Floor, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00).

COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder to whose proposal as evaluated by COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

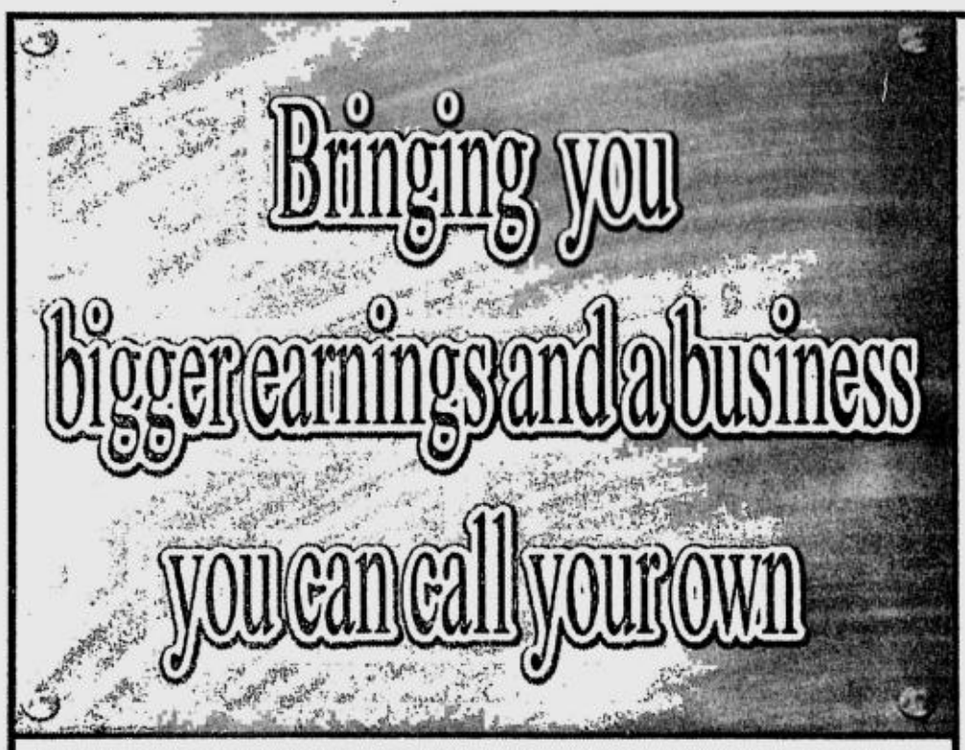
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – Oct. 11, 14 & 22, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

LYDIA L. PASCUAL is no longer employed by or in any way connected with **National Book Store, Inc.**, effective September 29, 2001.

Consequently, she is not authorized to transact any business for or in behalf of **National Book Store, Inc.** Any transaction entered into by her in behalf of the company will not be honored by the management.



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BITS & Clips

PMA holds elections

DURING the Philippine Marketing Association's upcoming general membership meeting on Oct. 24 at the Skytop of the Hotel Intercontinental, PMA will hold elections for the board of directors of 2002. All PMA members are invited to attend this important occasion. For more information or reservations, call the PMA Secretariat at 892-3144, 892-0978 and 813-0466 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

Mulatto at Downtown Bar

THE WORD Mulatto is synonymous to live entertainment. Formed in the '90s by musical geniuses Jun Lacanienta, Jojie Tuazon and Francis Abraham, now it is the country's most successful live band advocating soul music at its finest. Patterned after the '70s power band "Gladys Knight and the Pips", Mulatto is composed of eight talented members—Jun Lacanienta as musical director, keyboardist and manager, vocalists Joey Bautista, Rowena Michael, Ryan Regino and Michael Bryan Tulin, Kenneth Ilagan on lead guitar, Alan Dichoso on bass guitar, Rancis de Leon on saxophone and Patrick Huit on drums. Catch them perform at the Downtown Bar of Hotel Rembrandt at 26 Tomas Morato Extension, Quezon City on Oct. 24, 9:30 p.m.

Enterprise HR Solution confab

INFOSTRUCTURE Systems & Consulting Corp. and Microsoft Philippines, two of the country's top IT firms, have combined forces to bring forth this year's biggest human resources event, "Enterprise HR Solution Conference 2001." The one-day conference at Shangri-La Makati on Oct. 23 aims to provide participants with a convenient venue to learn how technology solutions can help them meet their HR information system requirements. For more details, call Sheila Rey at 8920-3325, e-mail Infostructure@eenterprise.net or visit www.eenterprise.net.

PNU alumni induction of officers

THE PHILIPPINE Normal University Alumni Association will hold its formal induction of officers at the Roma Salon of the Manila Hotel on Oct. 24, 7 p.m. with DECS undersecretary Fe A. Hidalgo as inducting officer. The newly elected officers for 2001 are: Dr. Enrique F. Coralejo, president; Dr. Pedro A. Ramos, vice president: Dr. Rolando L. Magno, auditor; Dr. Victoria Q. Fuentes, treasurer; Dr. Elizabeth T. Manalo, PRO; Dr. Gloria Rigonan, business manager; Teresa R. Cordero, executive secretary. New directors are Dr. Efrain E. Abracia, Dr. Adoracion M. Acuna, Dr. Teressita G. Domalanta, Fr. Corsie S. Legaspi, Dr. Flordeliza R. Mayari, Dr. Dinah F. Mindo; Dr. Jesus A. Ochave, Dr. Redentor I. Yerro, and Dr. Corazon D. Santiago, ex officio. Advisers are Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, Dr. Pedro O. Sanvicente, Dr. Minda C. Sutaria, Hon. Myrna M. Torres and lawyer Lilia S. Garcia, president of PNU.

SAN MIGUEL SUPPORTS AD CONGRESS

The 17th Philippine Advertising Congress of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard) and the San Miguel Brewing Group inked a memorandum of agreement making the brewing company as minor sponsor of the forthcoming Congress, which is expected to gather 2,500 delegates. Shown during the contract signing, were (from left) ways and means chair Gil Chua, Congress vice chair and Pana president Angelica P. Suiza, San Miguel Brewing Group marketing manager Glen Glinoga and Congress over-all chair Noy Dy-Liacco.

Cool down with 'Smooth Escape 2'

IF YOU thoroughly enjoyed City Lite 88.3's critically acclaimed and well-received "Smooth Escape" album, you will undoubtedly revel in the Smooth Jazz station's latest CD: "Smooth Escape 2," which was launched at the very stylish resto-bar Dish at the 3rd floor of Power Plant in Rockwell Center, Makati City recently. This time, the stress-free FM station brings its sound closet to its listeners by putting together smooth selections in just one album. Check out R&B, groove and acid jazz songs by your favorite artists. Incognito and D' Sound make a comeback with their cuts "Where Do We Go From Here" and "Tattooed on My Mind," respectively. Both groups were part of the Smooth Escape album of the station.

The other cuts in City Lite 88.3's "Smooth Escape 2" album include: "Ocean Drive" by Lighthouse Family, "Any Other Time" by David Benoit with David Pack, "Back at One" by Brian McKnight, "Mama Didn't Raise No Fool" by Swing Out Sister, "Love's Holiday" by Norman Brown, "You Make Me Wanna" by Monday Michuru, "Through The Test of Time" by Patti Austin, "Love is Here To Stay" by Omar Hakim, "Now or Never" by New York Voices, "Night Birds" by Shakatak, "Like I Do Now" by Chris Botti featuring Edie Brickell, "Never Knew Love" by Oleta Adams, and a bonus track (solely for CDs) titled "Smoother Escape" by D' Sound. The album is released by MCA Universal on CDs and cassettes. For inquiries, call City Lite 88.3's hotline at 631-8803.

Pfizer among top 100 brands in the world

PFIZER continues to make its mark in the global corporate world by being included in Business Week's Top 100 brands.

The ranking, which was released recently, placed Pfizer Inc. on the 30th spot and was based on how much the company would likely earn. Using Interbrand's system, companies included in the Top 100 utilize factors in the rating of brand strength such as market leadership, stability and the ability to cross geographical and cultural borders. Interbrand's method is basically the same process in which analysts value other assets: on the basis on how much a company or brand is likely to earn going forward. Business Week and Interbrand both believe that the figures used in rating these brands comes closest to representing the true economic value of the complex array of forces that make up a brand.

In the ranking, Business Week acknowledges Pfizer's marketing operation as "the best in the business. Plus, it has roster a blockbuster products."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001 B 17

Gloria, Gates sign technology agreements

MICROSOFT Corp. has committed to help the Philippine government achieve the goals outlined in the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed Friday.

The MOU was one of three information and communication technology training and certification agreements signed in the presence of Ms Macapagal and Microsoft chair Bill Gates in Shanghai, according to the Office of the Press Secretary.

The Presidential Management Staff (PMS), under the Office of the President, signed the agreement with Microsoft Philippines. Microsoft Philippines will assist the PMS in deploying and managing a knowledge-based system that will monitor the progress of Sona projects.

Updates on the Sona projects are included in the Philippine government portal at www.gov.ph. The PMS is one of the project proponents of the portal, which recently switched to using Microsoft technology. This switch from an open source software code, however, disappointed the original developers of the government portal *(see sidebar)*.

Ms Macapagal and Gates discussed the role of ICT in improving the delivery of government services in a meeting prior to the signing.

Ms Macapagal said Gates "gave a lot of useful advices on how we can achieve our aspirations."

The President also told Gates that the Philippines has an advantage over other countries in ICT "in the sense of having a very large, English-speaking, trainable and pretty IT-literate workforce."

"We already have a thriving software industry in the Philippines, that's the way to go in the 21st century and in the new economy and there are many areas whereby Microsoft and the Philippines can work together to achieve that goal for us," the President told Gates.

Clark Development Corp. and Microsoft Philippines also signed another MOU for the implementation of a training and certification program at the newly instituted Clark Polytechnic.

The third MOU was signed by Microsoft Philippines with carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and ICT educator Systems Technology Institute (STI). The three parties intend to develop and promote the adoption of online education or e-learning in the Philippines, according to the report. *INQ7.net*

While the President and Bill Gates were discussing IT in Shanghai, developers of the country's government portal felt that they were "Shanghaied" when the RP-Microsoft talks happened.

RP portal dumps open source for Microsoft; developers disappointed

BY ERWIN OLIVA

THE OFFICIAL Philippine government portal at www.gov.ph now sports a new design and has been transferred to a different server, to the surprise of the original site developers who were apparently kept in the dark regarding the switch.

Originally developed based on open source technology, the online government portal switched Thursday to a Microsoft-based design following the official launch two weeks ago.

This development surprised and even disappointed the original developers from the private sector, k2Inter[a]ctive Philippines (k2ia) which had volunteered its services for free and successfully finished the site with a two-month turnaround.

The original k2ia Philippines design is still online at www.philgov.ph.

Ruben Rabago, managing director of k2ia Philippines, said in an interview that the firm is still coordinating with the Office of the President and the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS)—the project proponents of the project—on the updating of the website.

Rabago, however, said that k2ia was not informed of the switch to the new design, platform, and even servers.

"They could have informed us of this change even though we've done this project pro bono for nation-building," Rabago said .

He added that prior to the switch to the new design, www.gov.ph was running on computers powered by open source technology.

"We were pushing for an open source platform during the development of the website," he said.

The new www.gov.ph now runs on Microsoft server technology, and is being hosted by Bitstop Computers, a Dagupan-based Internet service provider and Microsoft technology partner.

Softrigger Interactive was responsible for the new design and chose Bitstop as the new host. A visit to the Softrigger website at www.softrigger.com shows that its portfolio of clients includes Microsoft Philippines.

"We didn't receive any notice of these changes," Rabago said, adding that k2ia Philippines is now awaiting official word from the "proponents" from the govern-

RP/ p.B18

Pinoy webmaster closes site after 'Bert-Bin Laden' link

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

THOUGH denying any link to Internet photos showing the "Sesame Street" character together with Osama bin Laden, a Filipino webmaster decided to take down his long-running "Bert is Evil!" site on Oct. 11.

"I have taken down the 'Bert is Evil!' site from my server. I would like to thank Sesame Workshop for their patience and restraint all these years. I implore all fans and mirror site hosts of 'Bert is Evil' to stop the spread of this site too.

"This is not selling out. I was not bullied. I am not being a pussy. I am doing this because I feel this has gotten too close to reality and I choose to be responsible enough to stop it right here," said Dino Ignacio in a message posted at www.fractalcow.com/bert/index.html.

Ignacio, a 27-year-old Webby award-winning 3D animator and webmaster based in San Francisco, has gained a following over the years among Netizens for his off-the-wall doctored photos of Bert. Since 1996, he has "accused" Bert of being part of practically every evil conspiracy to date, including links to the Nazis and the assassination of John F. Kennedy—not to mention the death of another "Sesame Street" character, Mr. Hooper. Doctored photos of Bert appearing with Hitler, for example, have been the staple of Ignacio's parody site.

Life, however, took a twist stranger than fiction when Bert appeared in the background of a photo of Bin Laden in posters carried by anti-American protesters in Bangladesh.

ONE of the many "Bert is Evil!" mirror sites that have remained on the Web after Dino Ignacio, the creator of the original award-winning site, closed it down. The "Sesame Street" character has been linked in jest to the activities of Osama bin Laden, prompting Ignacio to close his parody site which portrays Bert as an evil creature.

The doctored Bert-Bin Laden photos, however, have apparently been making the rounds on the Internet prior to the rallies—and probably even more so after the controversy erupted.

The producers of "Sesame Street" issued a statement deploring those responsible for the images, according to CNN.

"The people responsible for this should be ashamed of themselves. We are exploring all legal options to stop this abuse and any similar abuses in the future," Sesame Workshop said in the statement.

It appears that the people who created the Bin Laden posters which included Bert's image simply downloaded the photo from the Internet, apparently without knowing who Bert was—or maybe even realizing the Muppet's presence.

Ignacio said in the Fox News report that someone had e-mailed him a doctored photo of Bin Laden standing next to Bert, who was shown wearing a trenchcoat. Ignacio said that he received the e-mail a week after the Sept. 11 World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. He said that he did not post the picture on his "Bert Is Evil!" site out of respect for the victims.

One site mentioned in the CNN report was http://www.j-roen.net/bert/how/how.phtml.

The Bert section, however, is now down. In its place is a word from webmaster "J-roen" posting this explanation: "Due to the great amount of comments (both positive and negative) since a picture from this website was recently featured in a collage poster, I have decided to take this section of the site offline."

Meanwhile, responding to the flood of e-mail he has received questioning his decision to take down the "Bert is Evil!" site, Ignacio posted in the site his response to one of the people who sent feedback:

"I literally killed a part of myself today. If fractalcow represents different parts of my psyche, I just killed the rebellious part of my soul today in lieu of the part that dictates to be responsible.

"My main motivation in killing the site is that I hope it helps stop the idea from germinating anymore into the mainstream. I fear that it may destroy the character's credibility with children. I cannot allow that to happen. I myself grew up on 'Sesame Street' and it was an important part of my childhood."

"Bert is Evil!" mirror sites may still be found on the Internet.

Canada-based group eyes tech partners in RP

BY ERWIN OLIVA

A NON-PROFIT organization based in Canada seeks to establish partnerships with local small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) within the next few years.

The Ottawa Center for Research and Innovation (Ocri) is looking at establishing joint ventures with Philippine firms in the areas of telecommunications, software and communication services, microelectronics, and photonics, Ocri president Bill Collins said when he was in town recently.

"We see the Philippines as a fast-growing region, and we want to be part of it," Collins told the INQUIRER. "But we want to start somewhere and focus on a specific region and industry."

Ocri was established in 1983 with the primary purpose of developing Ottawa as a technology hub. Ottawa is the fourth largest metropolitan region in Canada, with a population of around 1.2 million. From 13 members, the organization has grown to 600. Members include large corporations and research laboratories, SMEs, post-secondary academic institutions, local school boards, and regional government and private individuals. Ottawa, in particular, is home to 75,000 technology workers, and more than 1,000 advanced technology firms. Ottawa's technology industry generates annual sales of 20 billion Canadian dollars, with 90 percent of products and services being exported. It is home to tech giants like Nortel Networks, Alcatel S.A., Mitel Corp. and Corel Corp.

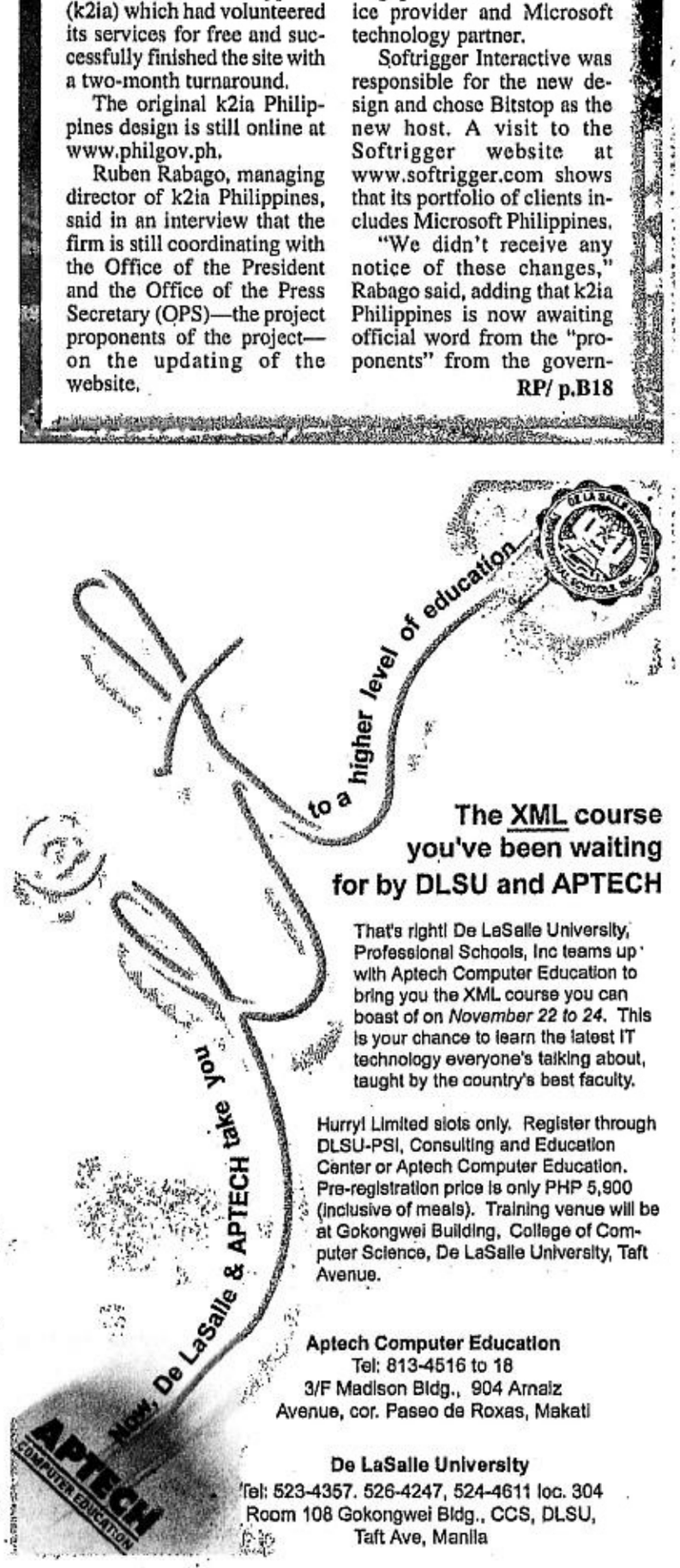
Collins, who was in the Philippines this week to introduce Ocri to the Philippines, said that he is helping build relationships between "institutions" and businesses, but not to the extent of matching them with Ottawa-based firms.

"That part will be handled by the private sector," he said, adding that Ocri instead aims to increase interest in Ottawa as a destination for high-tech firms located in the Southeast Asian region. Collins will also visit Malaysia and Thailand.

"We now want the rest of the world to know what we're doing," Collins said, lamenting that when one talks of high tech, the focus is often given to Silicon Valley.

Asked if Ocri intends to invest in the Philippines, Collins said that it is not likely that Ocri, which now boasts of 15 million Canadian dollars in funds this year, will invest in the country.

However, he is not totally discounting the fact that the joint ventures emerging out of his "evangelism" in the Southeast Asian region would bring investments to these countries.



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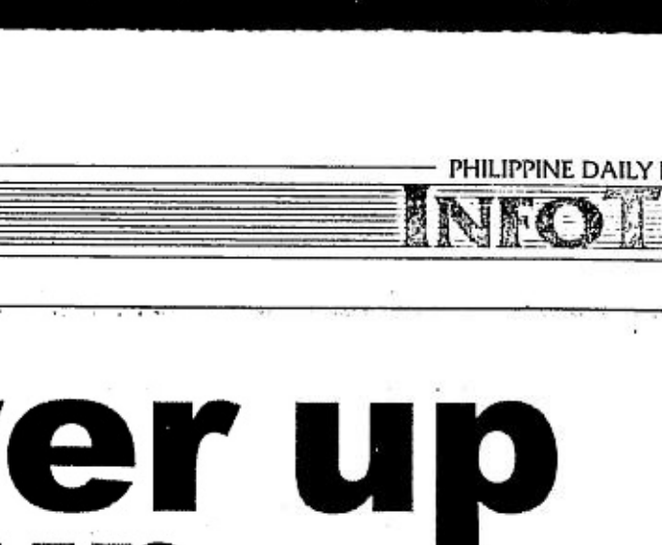

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43 IT companies ready to do business with RP

BY ERWIN OLIVA

AT LEAST 43 US-based firms engaged in the information and communications technology (ICT)-related businesses have expressed their commitment to meet with Philippine-based firms at a private-sector led business conference in the United States next month.

This was disclosed by Enrique C. Andres, chief executive officer of California-based Asia Expo Organization Corp. (AEOC) during a videoconference at the US Commercial Service center in Makat City. AEOC is the organizer of the first annual Philippine Information and Communications Technology, Trade, Investment and Tourism Business Conference in Burbank, California slated on Nov: 6 to 7.

"For those Philippine companies who have registered for the conference, we already have matched you with a US firm," Andres said, adding that the conference will have a "business matching" session for both Philippine-based firms and US companies attending the conference.

Conference attendees include US high-tech companies engaged in database management, intranet and Internet application development, wireless applications, call center services, e-business project management, hardware component manufacture, website maintenance, and medical transcription, according to Francis Morelos, chief information officer of AEOC.

Morelos said that a $10-million company has expressed plans to expand its call center business in the Philippines.

The expo is being organized by AEOC in coordination with a local group led by George C. Kintanar, former deputy commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission.

Global folder view setting

BY JERRY LIAO

IN WINDOWS, you have five choices on how to view your folders. You can view them as a webpage, as large icons, as small icons, as a list and with details. Rather than setting these options every time you open a new window, you can set all folders once to open at your setting of choice. Here's how:

(1) Open Windows Explorer.

(2) Set your view to your desired option.

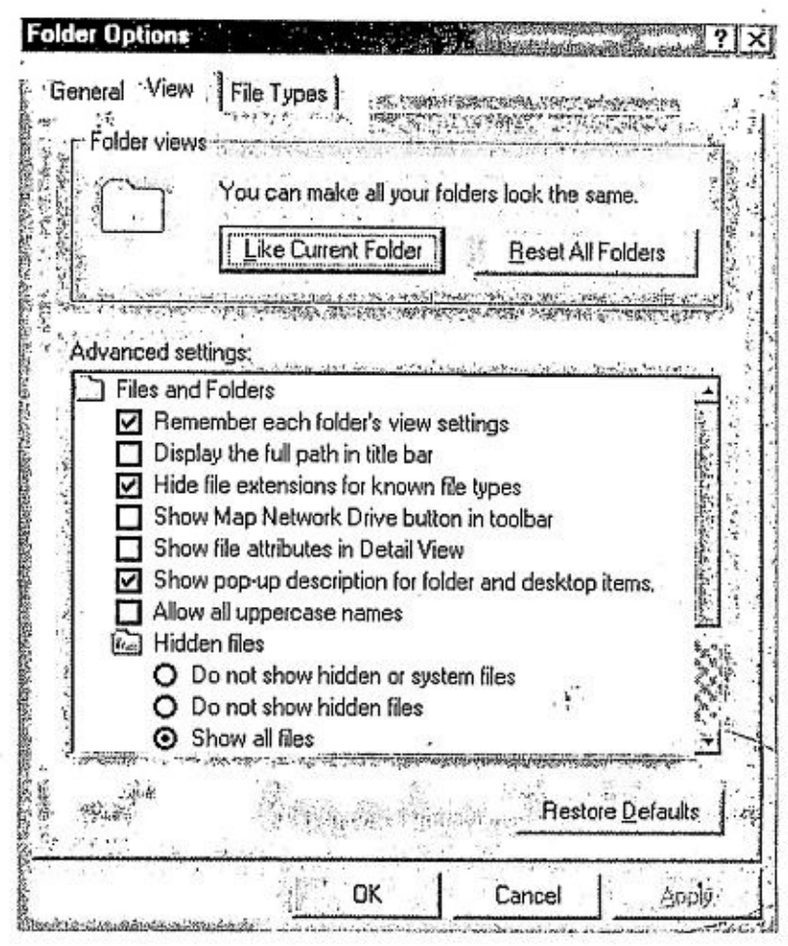
(3) Select "View" then "Folder Options."

(4) Choose "View Tab."

(5) Click the "Like Current Folder" button then click "Yes" to confirm.

(6) Every window you open from that point forward will look the way you want it to.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph



Open source crucial during hard times, says Cebu firm

BY ERWIN OLIVA

HARD times call for cost-cutting. However, cost-cutting does not necessarily mean ditching investments in information technology (IT). Cebu-based Hypertech Corp., a local distributor that is developing "affordable" solutions, stressed that IT need not be expensive.

As early as 1998, or just about the same time local interest in Linux picked up, the company began developing solutions using open source technology.

Fusing Filipino ingenuity and foreign talent, the firm created a team to focus on creating P30,000 to P50,000 worth of packaged solutions out of Linux, an open source operating system that combines the Linux kernel developed by Linus Torvalds and other publicly available open source components developed in the GNU (Gnu's Not Unix) environment.

After two years of hard labor, the company has come up with at least six packaged solutions, dubbed LinX, using open source technology. These include an e-mail system, an Internet café system, a network-attached storage system, a shared Internet connectivity system, an e-store system, and a thin-client system—all using open source technology.

Ricardo Gonzales, vice president for customer support of Hypertech, describes their solutions as network "appliances."

Gonzales said that the company has come up with dirt-cheap, but not crude, IT solutions because it believes that customers need not be locked on to software sold by one, dominant vendor.

"We build appliances (for customers), set it up, and remotely maintain it for customers," Gonzales said, adding that they intend to target small (10 employees and less) to medium (100 and up) businesses.

Considering that Linux does not require much processing power (they are using x86-based microchips), Hypertech's IT solutions run on a single server that supports several workstations. These workstations work on Linux and other operating systems such as Macintosh, QnX.BeOS, Unix, Windows, NT, and even PlayStation 2, Sega and Nintendo.

Hypertech president Fisher Chua said that with their home-grown network appliances, customers now have a choice between using an operating system developed by vendors like Microsoft and open source alternatives like Linux.

"We should not fall victims to changes in the operating systems or hardware requirements imposed by vendors," Chua added.

RP portal . . .

(From page B17)

ment on why they were not informed of the changes.

The INQUIRER called up the OPS, but was unable to get comments.

The k2ia Philippines executive admitted that the website was a "one-shot" deal and so was no longer under their "control" after the formal turnover to Malacañang two weeks ago. However, Rabago said they had hoped that the government would have continued using open source technology.

"We were invited to participate in this pro bono project for nation-building efforts by the administration, which we appreciated. When we turned over the website to them, the government could do whatever they wanted with it," Rabago admitted.

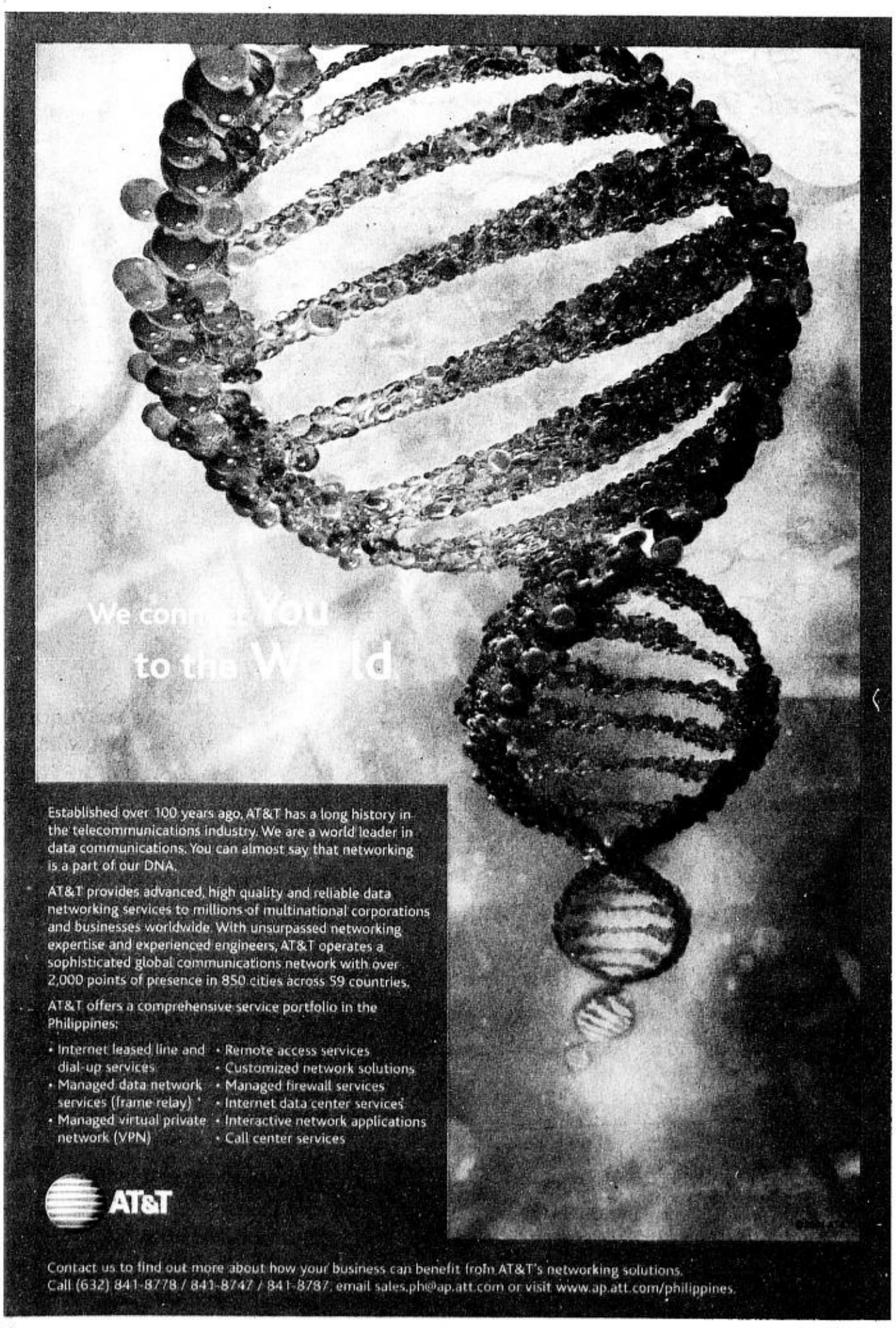
But the developers expected the government to inform them of the changes because k2ia Philippines already invested time and effort developing the original website.

MosCom supports Union Bank portal

UNIONBANKPH.COM, the country's first financial portal, has shifted to Mosaic Communications Inc. (MosCom) as its main service provider.

MosCom will initially service the main branch of Union Bank through a 1,024 Mbps (half E1) line to its main portal. The connection is expected to expand during the second phase to include connection of the bank's 120 branches nationwide through MosCom's over 70 points-of-presence (PoPs). National branches of Union Bank are expected to get connected to the main portal before the end of the year.

Union Bank claims to have the first real online banking service offering, which MosCom now supports. The service allows customers to do online banking transactions like account balance checking, funds transfer, bill payments and money remittance.



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Apec should prioritize labor rights in China

SHANGHAI—China is ignoring labor violations by foreign-invested companies, and business leaders at the current Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum should put workers' rights high on the agenda, a workers' rights group said Saturday.

New York-based China Labor Watch warned participants of an Apec meeting here that trade liberalization brought more multinational companies to China, and the Chinese government was turning a blind eye to labor violations in its eagerness to attract foreign investment.

The watchdog group, formed in 1997 by a former worker in China's factory boomtown Shenzhen, on Saturday released a three-year study on a Taiwan-invested shoe factory in southern China that it said paid workers less than the minimum wage and forced them to work overtime.

The factory, Dongguan Elegant Top Co. Ltd., located in Dongguan city in Guangdong province, makes shoes for major multinationals, including Reebok, Clarks and Fila.

It uses child labor and has subjected workers to using dangerous chemicals, such as methybenzene, without protection, according to CLW.

Female workers at the factory, who make up the majority of its 6,000 employees, have been subjected to sexual harassment, while the company imposes hefty fines for even minor mistakes, CLW said.

Four female workers committed suicide in 1999, partly due to work stress, it said. One worker had worked overtime continuously and died after the company refused to let her take time off from work even though she was sick, the group said.

Employees work 60 hours a week and make only about 25 US cents an hour or as little as 16 yuan ($1.95) a day if they do not work overtime. Many work long overtime hours but are paid below the legal rate for overtime work.

Two people who answered the telephone at the company said they worked in the company's offices and did not hear of such problems. One worker said employees worked 10 hours a day and made 700 yuan per month. Company officials could not be reached for comment.

CLW called on China to allow independent labor unions to be set up to protect workers' rights. China currently bans free unions and only allows workers to join government-controlled unions.

Those who have tried to set up independent workers' unions have been jailed.

CLW said many foreign companies cared only about making a profit and had shirked responsibility for workers by blaming all problems on their subcontractors, often Taiwanese or Hong Kong-invested companies.

"The majority of the benefits from trade liberalization go to the Chinese government officials and their friends," CLW said.

The report was compiled from an investigation conducted by CLW director Li Qiang from February 1999 to February 2000 as well as factory workers who contacted CLW, Li said. *AFP*

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PM says Japan will not turn back on reform

SHANGHAI—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Saturday that he would not backpedal on structural reforms for the sake of temporary, short-term economic growth. "My responsibility is to pull the economy back onto a self-sustainable growth path. I will not backpedal on my economic reforms for the sake of short-term, temporary economic growth," Koizumi told reporters after a meeting with US President George W. Bush in Shanghai.

Koizumi said he made the pledge to Bush during a bilateral meeting earlier on Saturday on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific economic forum.

Japan's economy is teetering on the brink of recession, and analysts say it needs deep structural reforms to revive it. *Reuters*

China changes economic rules to spur trade

SHANGHAI, China—Punctuating its support for efforts to launch a new round of global trade talks, China announced Friday that it had abolished dozens of rules and regulations affecting a broad swath of its economy.

Going into the annual summit of Asia-Pacific leaders this weekend in Shanghai, officials have portrayed the push for freer trade as one of the most important antidotes to the economic downturn that has accelerated following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

But while Chinese and other Pacific Rim leaders are casting a vote for free trade with a unanimous call for launching a new round of talks at next month's World Trade Organization (news—web sites) meeting, European Union officials back in Brussels rejected the latest draft agenda. The proposed agenda was released last month by the WTO.

Post-Sept. 11 solidarity goes only so far in overriding long-standing differences over thorny trade issues.

EU Agricultural Commissioner Franz Fischler on Thursday called the proposed agenda—a last-stab attempt to bridge gaps among the 142 WTO members—"a brave effort."

However, Fischler said EU members could not accept a reference to "phasing out" farm subsidies. Trying to define the outcome of trade talks in advance caused the failure of trade talks in 1999 in Seattle, where anti-globalization protesters rampaged in the streets, he contended.

Western demands for the inclusion of labor rights and environmental protection in the agenda have also proved divisive, with poor nations saying they need time before they can hope to meet standards that took years to develop in wealthier countries. *AP*

Lower hotel prices trim housing costs

WASHINGTON—The drop in travelers following the Sept. 11 attacks caused US hotels and vacation rentals to slash prices last month, resulting in the first drop in the government's housing price index in 15 years, the labor department said on Friday.

"Sept. 11 changed everybody's life dramatically," said Joe McInerney, president and chief executive of the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

The overall price index for housing fell 0.2 percent in September, the first decline since a drop of 0.1 percent in February 1986 and the largest slide since a drop of 0.8 percent in December of 1982.

While continued declines in fuel and utility prices contributed to the drop, a fall of 3.1 percent in prices for lodging away from home—hotels, motels, beach cottages, resort rentals and the like—was the primary cause, said Patrick Jackman of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That decline factors in seasonal adjustment, he said.

"Our respondents have said that one of the reasons prices are lower is because of the events of Sept. 11 and the lack of demand there," Jackman said.

The broad consumer price index rose 0.4 percent in September.

Occupancy levels at hotels, motels and resorts was down 10 percent from the same period in 2000 in the week ending Friday, according to the hotel and lodging trade association.

Hotels and resorts are trying to woo back travelers, particularly leisure trip-takers, industry officials said. *Reuters*

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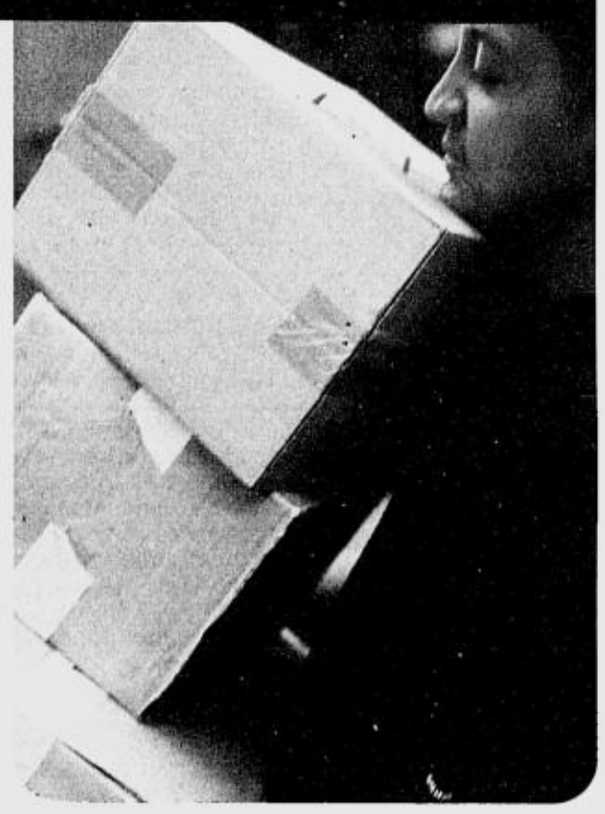

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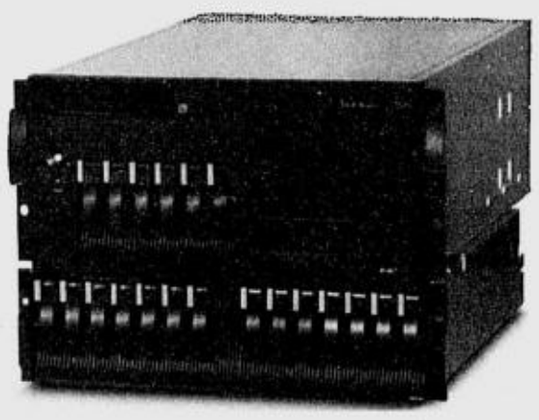

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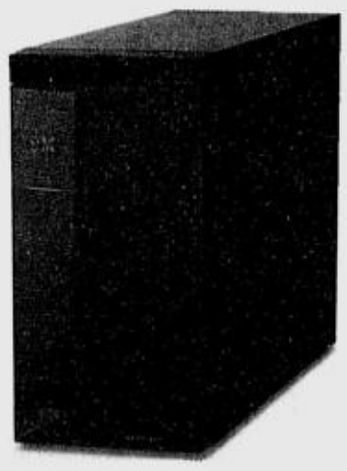

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Ramcar debt woes worry BSP

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BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura has warned that the bad loans ratio of the country's commercial banks could balloon to 19 percent of their total loan portfolio once battery-maker Ramcar Inc. defaults on P8 billion worth of loans to locally operating lenders.

He said the level of Ramcar's loans could add some three-quarters-of-a-percentage point to the level of the August non-performing loans that stood at 18.03 percent.

Buenaventura noted, however, that it was good that most of Ramcar's creditors either have modest NPL problems or are big enough to cope with the default. He acknowledged though that only about P2 billion of the P8 billion in loans of Ramcar were secured.

Two of the battery firm's biggest creditors are Bank of the Philippine Islands and Land Bank of the Philippines with exposures of P2.2 billion and P1 billion each. As of the second quarter, the bad loans ratio of BPI stood at 14.5 percent of total loans and Land Bank at 24.23 percent.

Ramcar's other creditors include Equitable-PCI Bank, Citibank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Union Bank of the Philippines, United Coconut Planters Bank, among others. As of the second quarter, the bad loan ratio of these banks stood at 19.55 percent, 1.56 percent, 17.88 percent 15.81 percent, and 23.37 percent.

RAMCAR/ B3

CALTEX LAUNCHES NEW HAVOLINE

The "Art of listening" was the theme for the very successful launch of the new improved Caltex Havoline line of lubricants. Held at the NBC tent in the Bonifacio Global City, the event was attended by more than 500 guests composed of friends, dealers, distributors, supporters and motoring journalists.

Mr. Brian J. Drummond, Caltex General Manager for Lubricants, personally thanked everyone for making Havoline everything it is today – a leader in engine oils and a standard among brands.

The drama-filled show highlighted Havoline's development with a countdown showcasing the various milestones in Havoline's history, starting from the time when it was first introduced in 1904. After almost a century of listening, caring and helping, Havoline has been upgraded to meet consumer needs and wants.

The improved label and packaging design of the new line of Havoline Engine oils make it easier to distinguish one variant from the other. Havoline Fully Synthetic now comes in a silver bottle with a gold cap. Havoline Energy is in a blue bottle with a blue cap, and Havoline Formula is in the same black bottle and a red cap.

Havoline Formula

To complete the upgrade, Havoline Formula has moved up to API-SL quality rating, currently the highest API service rating available in the market. This quality improvement translates to higher oxidation stability, lower oil consumption, extended oil drain interval and higher sludge control. It is a highly shear-stable, multi-grade gasoline engine oil formulated from selected base fluids for use in passenger car and light truck engines requiring API-SL, SJ or SH performance lubricants under all operating conditions. It is optimized to provide complete engine protection against starting friction, heat stress and engine deposits. Finally, here's an engine oil specially made to protect your car from the stress brought about by city driving – an oil that will help keep your car reliable and dependable.

Havoline Energy

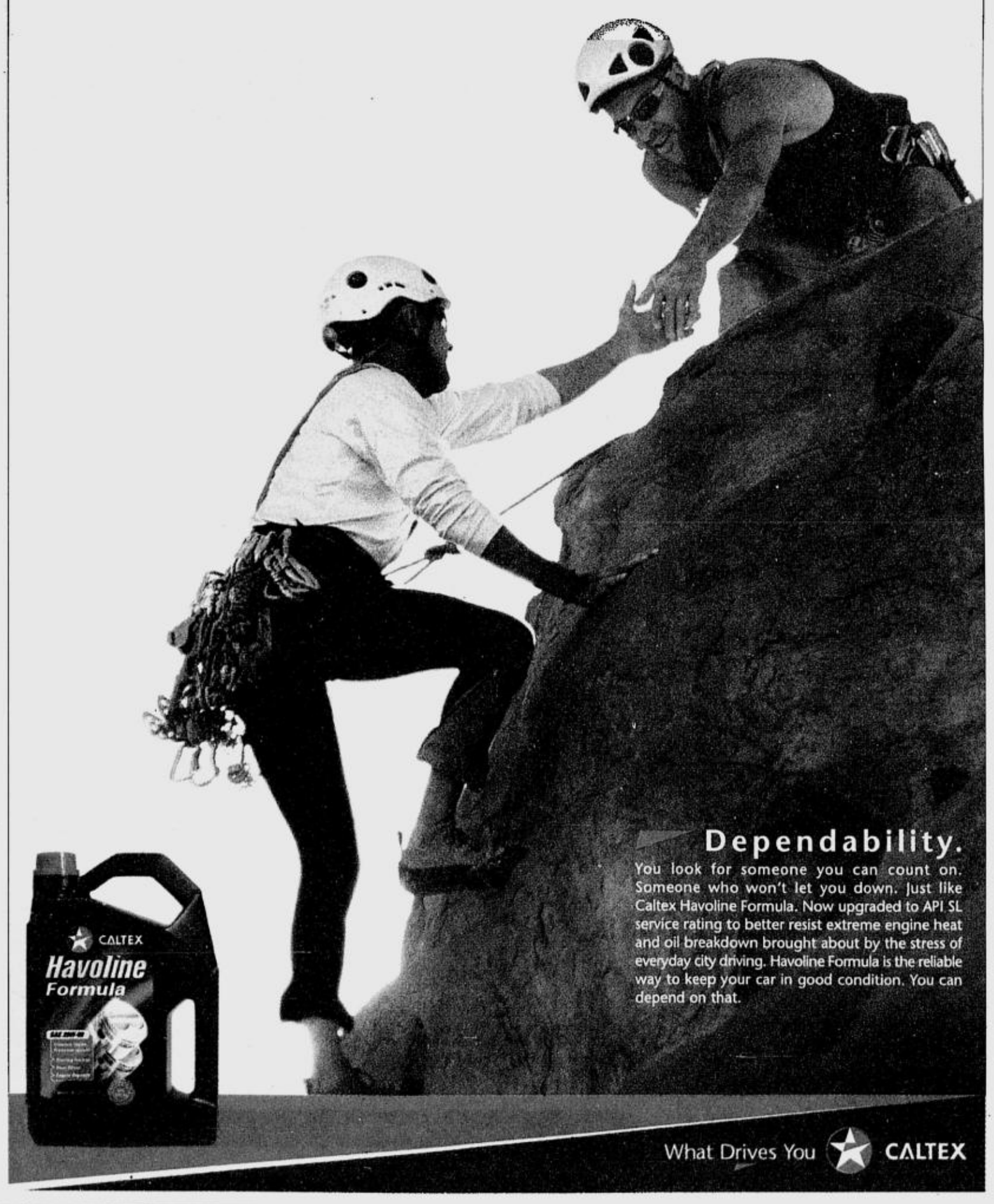
The superior quality Havoline Energy engine oil continues to give the benefit of fuel savings with maximum engine protection. It's for those who appreciate getting more than what they pay for. Havoline Energy is a revolutionary engine oil that protects your car so efficiently it actually extends your mileage so you get more kilometers per liter of gas you load. It is a premium performance, friction-modified, multi-grade motor oil formulated from a blend of selected ultra-high viscosity index mineral oils and unique additive technology for use in passenger car and light truck gasoline engines where oils of performance up to and including API-SJ, ILSAC GF-2 and ACEA-A1 are recommended.

Havoline Fully Synthetic

Havoline Fully Synthetic is simply the best Havoline there is, providing the best protection we can offer against engine wear and heat stress. It provides the ultimate engine protection for complete control of oil oxidation. Havoline Fully Synthetic is a premium performance, friction-modified, multi-grade motor oil formulated from selected synthetic base fluids and race-proven additive technology for use in passenger car and light truck gasoline engines and passenger car diesel engines under all operating conditions. It is optimized to provide complete engine protection with the lowest oil consumption, highest thermal stability and widest temperature performance.

To introduce the new line of Havoline engine oils to the southern market, similar launches were held in Cebu at the Marriott Hotel on September 11 and in Davao on September 14 at the Marco Polo Hotel.

As a follow up activity to the launch, Possum Bourne's Subaru Impreza WRX, the winner in the Asia Pacific Rally Championship 2000, will be on display at selected Caltex stations from September 19 to November 31, 2001.



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BUSINESS Monday

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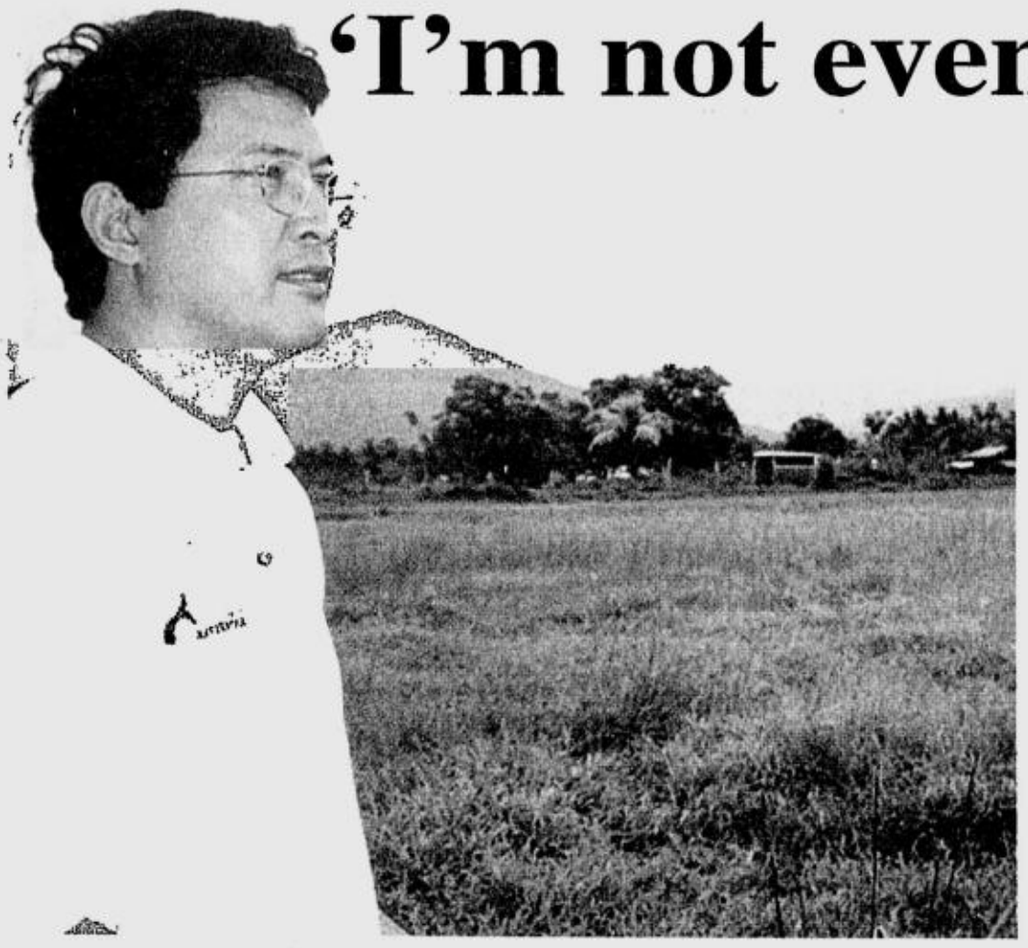

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is confident to face Senate again.

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

TWO days after what many thought was an ugly brush with senators during his first Commission on Appointments hearing, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is the epitome of coolness. Or so he claims.

Asked what he would do if he were indeed bypassed by the Senate—if he would go back to his lucrative career in the private sector, if he liked working for the government, the tallest and the richest member of the Macapagal-Arroyo Cabinet only laughed heartily.

"Let my laugh be the answer," he quips while chuckling.

No, he wasn't trying to sound like a brag. Despite his many shortcomings to the members of media covering him daily, which includes a tendency to deliberately withhold information, being a disproportionate swagger is not one of them.

Camacho says he was not surprised that the "poster issue" was raised by the Senate last Wednesday, his first encounter with the powerful appointments committee.

After all, he had been warned by friends of Sen. Tessie A. Oreta as well as by his circle of friends, that the lady senator had taken his public display of enmity very seriously.

"I had been told that she would raise that issue so I was not surprised," he explains.

As far as he could remember, the word "*pokpok*," a street slang for prostitute, was not written in the huge poster that his family had hung outside their house in Urdaneta Village during the height of the impeachment trial.

"I told the Senate that I could not recall if there was such a word but I also said it was not likely. The first time I even heard or saw that word *pokpok* was in Edsa," he says.

Much of what his sons had written were about shame. "Most of the statements were on shame as to how Senator Oreta conducted herself during the impeachment trial," he says.

He told the members of the CA, however, that he takes responsibility for what his sons wrote.

Words like "we are ashamed to be your neighbors" were more the flavor of the controversial posters to which Oreta claimed she had pictures of.

Camacho says his wife Kim is also trying to look if they have pictures of the posters so the family could prove that the word "*pokpok*" was not used to describe the senator.

MAMA Narda Camacho

What caught him a bit flatfooted was the revelation of Sen. Blas Ople that he had received a "nasty letter" from Camacho's mother, criticizing the solon for a statement he made against the former energy secretary regarding the power bill.

I'M NOT EVEN/ C4

Brother leads by following his flock

BY ANNE LUISA E. VILLARICO

BEING a president of six sprawling campuses is like being the head of a body composed of different and yet equally significant parts.

That is the reason why 57-year-old Bro. Rolando Dizon, FSC, president of the De La Salle University System schools, firmly believes in a democratic style of leadership—everyone in the executive board must participate in decision making.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

This translates to 90 percent of the decisions being delegated to the executive board.

The DLSU System is of the De La Salle University-Manila, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, DLSU-College of St. Benilde, De La Salle Santiago-Zobel, DLSU-Health and Sciences Campus and DLSU-Professional Schools.

Dizon's style is based on his experience as an educator, as a head of various organizations and as a social advocate.

"Every human being is important and deserves to be respected and accepted," says Dizon. And this style seemed to be effective for the system.

Bro. Dizon is not new to the Lasallian education. He finished his early education in La Salle College, Bacolod City (now University of St. La Salle) until high school where he graduated with top honors.

In 1961, at 17, he was attracted to the life of a La Salle brother and initially decided to temporarily become one. He then studied at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where he finished his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and where he was a consistent dean's lister.

After that, he started teaching Mathematics and Religion at La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. During his 18 years of service in LSG that lasted until 1986, his competence and leadership skills enabled him to rise from a grade school and high school teacher to president of LSG for eight years.

Namfrel

During this time, he also completed his Master's degree in Educational Management at DLSU and earned his Ph.D in International Development Education as a Fulbright scholar in 1978 at Stanford University, where he became the president of Union of Filipino students.

Being a social advocate, Bro.

BROTHER/ C2

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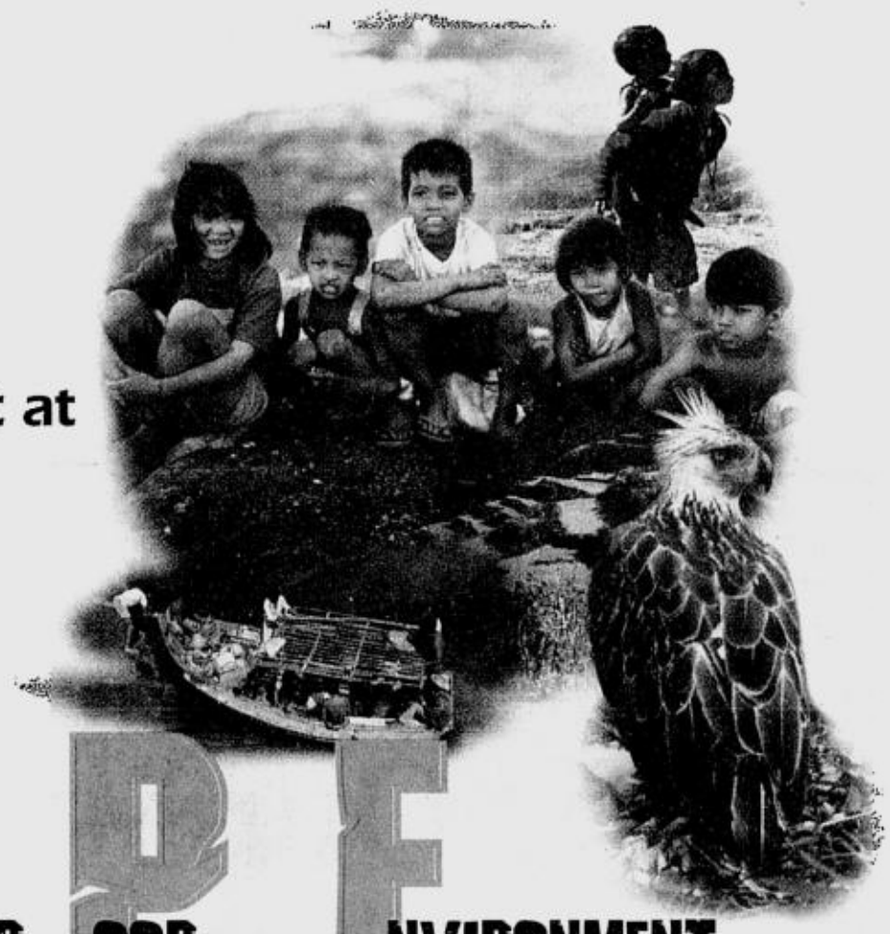

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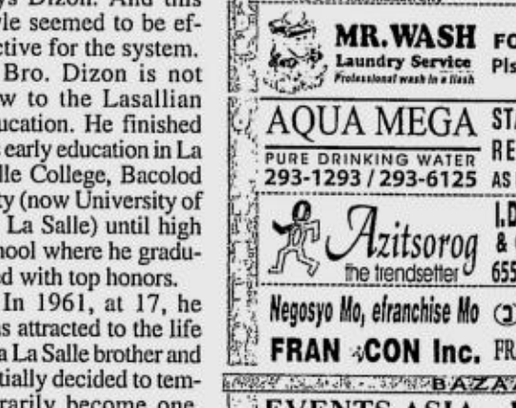

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Brother leads . . .

(From page C1)

DIZON

Dizon held an important position during the Edsa revolution as chair of the 1986 National Movement for Free Elections' (Namfrel) Quick Count.

After Edsa I, Dizon returned to his roots in Bacolod and was installed as the president of La Salle-Bacolod until it became a university in 1988. "It took me a while to adjust to Negros again," Dizon said.

Some 12 years later, when the former system president Bro. Andrew Gonzalez was appointed as education secretary, the system looked for somebody to replace him. Dizon's good track record won him the position.

"It happened very fast," said Dizon. "None of us (La Salle brothers) expected Bro. Andrew to accept the job . . . I guess I was next in line." Bro. Dizon was installed as the 18th system president in October 1998. Dizon presently holds office at the main campus.

He says the culture of each school is different.

"When I go there (system schools), I put on a hat right away and say 'this is my Taft hat, this is my Zobel hat,'" Dizon jokes.

Dizon adds that he has to adjust because he cannot treat the people in one campus the same way as those from another campus. As a good administrator, he says, you have to "really consider the culture of each school, otherwise you'll encounter different kinds of problems."

As a seasoned administrator, he has learned the needs of each school.

Consultations

"(DLSU) Manila tends to be the most bureaucratic, while Dasmariñas and Benilde are more open to change because they are relatively young institutions." Dizon said.

He tries to get everyone involved in decisions that affect them. He holds a lot of consultations and meetings, especially if there are a lot of important decisions to be made.

"Day-to-day decision-making . . . I leave it up to them (board)." Dizon adds.

He juggles his time visiting each campus for council/board meetings. "I do move around, but one of the things that I changed was the many meetings scheduled before."

Dizon says he decided to cut down the number of meetings by half, but says he visits a campus whenever the need arises.

Through his able leadership, DLSU was named one of the premier private, Catholic institutions in the country and in Southeast Asia, and ranked No. 1 in academic offering among private universities in Asiaweek's Asia's Best Universities.

Dizon's commitment to what he thought would only be a six-month service as a La Salle brother has gone a long way. He is now on his 40th year in the service with the most recent years as president, no less.

The ethics of managerial conduct: A continuing dilemma

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Niceto S. Poblador, Ph. D.

ECONOMIC choice has traditionally been premised on the pursuit of self-interest. In our daily lives, acts intended to benefit others are rare and are typically performed in anticipation of reciprocity, or to benefit those who are perceived to be extensions of one's self, such as family members, friends and relatives.

Oftentimes, evil deeds are avoided not because these are perceived to be intrinsically harmful to others but for the purpose of avoiding social sanction or public ridicule.

If doing good for others is essentially an act of selfishness, it goes without saying that most of what passes for "ethical" business practices are actually less than the solicitous acts we presume them to be because they are intended to ultimately benefit the enterprise.

The "progressive" corporation that shows concern for all its stakeholders typically does so in anticipation of ultimate benefits to its shareholders.

One possible way out of this dilemma is to redefine good and evil not on the basis of intent but on the manner in which self-interest is pursued.

For example, a "good" way of enhancing profits over an extended time horizon is to forego a portion of current profits by improving the quality of the product (i.e., by creating consumer value). By contrast, attempting to do so by using inferior materials (a form of opportunism made possible by information asymmetries between the seller and the buyer) may be deemed morally reprehensible.

In this way, an enterprise can continue to pursue its goal of maximizing long-run profits and still be committed to the usual standards of ethical business conduct.

But this idea is deceptive in many ways.

Solid theories

To begin with, there is a need to put business ethics on a much more solid theoretical footing than where it rests now. Evolutionary theory and the classical theory of markets are a promising place to start in our quest for such a conceptual framework.

As a first major step in this direction, we must de-moralize self-seeking behavior. It is part of the general order of things. The survival of the fittest within and among species is premised on self-preservation. Animals in the wild care for their siblings and identify closely with their own pride, yet destroy those of their own kind that belong to rival groups.

The natural food chain itself is a clear case of one species surviving at the seeming expense of the others. From a larger, evolutionary perspective, however, this apparently predatory behavior is essential to the preservation of life on the planet.

From this standpoint, acts of self-preservation ultimately benefit not only the individual and the species but all forms of life on earth.

In the economic and social world, self-serving individual acts, as a rule, ultimately benefit society, and therefore should not be labeled as unethical. Social anthropologists have developed evolutionary theories of organizations that rest on the premise of self-seeking competitive behavior.

An example is the "survivor technique" (developed by Nobel Laureate George Stigler) of determining the firm structure of industries. These mechanisms insure that the institutional forms that survive are those that best meet the needs of society.

Social welfare

The classical theory of markets tells us that individual competitive behavior and exchange mediated by the price mechanism insures the maximization of social welfare. Some versions of current game-theoretic approaches to oligopolistic behavior come essentially to the same conclusion.

To be sure, certain groups are bound to suffer from the working of such mechanisms, but the role of social and political institutions that have evolved through the millennia is precisely to provide the needed safety nets for those who are disadvantaged from these processes.

How, one may ask, can individual actors pursue their own self-interest and yet behave ethically? This can be done by factoring variables that are positively associated with society's well-being.

For example, business firms may state their missions to include efforts at enhancing the environment and creating more consumer and employee value, and pursue these objectives as vigorously as they do to enhance profits.

Trade-offs are implicitly established among these variables at the margin of choice. By considering others' concerns as their own, individual actors identify with the larger body politic. In other words, they are seen as pursuing their extended personal interests, and not just half-heartedly adhering to accepted precepts of "social responsibility" or arbitrarily prescribed or socially sanctioned rules of behavior.

Both morality and rationality are contingent on knowledge. Only knowledgeable people are capable of moral and rational behavior. An act is rational if it is intended to achieve specific goals.

Selfish objectives

Behavior which is intended to achieve purely selfish objectives may be rational, and may also be immoral depending on whether the individual is aware of the consequences of his or her act on others or on the community.

Thus, an otherwise smart physician who prescribes expensive branded medicines for her patients in anticipation of financial favors from beneficent drug firms is acting rationally. If she does so with the knowledge that many of her poor patients will suffer as a result, she is also acting immorally.

If the act is pursued with the knowledge that others will suffer as a result, the act is, by definition, immoral. Otherwise, the act cannot be adjudged as unethical.

An ethical act is one that is done with both self-interest and the well-being of others in mind. Once a person has fully factored the interest of others in his or her utility function, the distinction between what is rational and what is moral disappears.

This is possible only with the highest order of knowledge, one in which the individual becomes aware of the direct as well as the indirect, or external effects of his or her acts.

Behavior that conforms to this norm corresponds to what an eminent social scientist called "rational, value-oriented conduct." In our example, the doctor's behavior is both rational and moral where her utility function more completely specified to include the interests of her patients.

In the business arena, the responsibility for developing knowledgeable and hence potentially morally upright decision makers depends in large measure on the quality of business education.

To my mind, however, management education cannot develop managers who are imbued with a high sense of moral values by the mere inclusion of a course in business ethics in the business curriculum. Ethical values, like attitudes, cannot be taught. They are internalized by the individual as he or she acquires substantive knowledge.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, professor of Management at the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business and professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines School of Economics. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec @globe.com.ph.)

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Quality awards: The US model and RP's response

(Second of two parts)

BY FILEMON T. BERBA JR.
AND JUAN A. QUINTOS

AMERICAN quality leader Dr. Joseph M. Juran prescribed in the late '50s that a focus on quality would help Japan turn into an economic powerhouse. Both Juran and W. Edwards Deming, another quality guru, are considered largely responsible for the Japanese industry's post-World War II recovery and rise to dominance in the world markets.

Japan followed the two Americans' prescription on quality and productivity, and became the best in the world. But most US manufacturers ignored Deming's and Juran's works until around 1980. By then, because of severe competition especially from the Japanese, many US companies were at the brink of extinction.

The US heeded to what was written on the wall: "Get quality or lose the race." It was in this context that the US Congress established in 1987 the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBNQA) to promote quality awareness, to motivate American companies to improve quality and productivity for the pride of recognition while obtaining a competitive edge through increased profits, and to publicize successful strategies.

Baldrige Award as a global model

After more than a decade, the Baldrige Criteria had become a global model not just as a quality award, but also for its effective and stringent criteria that cut across all aspects and sectors of an organization, whether private or public. More than 40 quality programs modeled after the Baldrige award are now in operation worldwide including Japan, Australia and most European countries.

Built upon a set of core values and concepts such as customer-driven quality, leadership, continual improvement, public responsibility and results focus, the Baldrige Award deserves to be a global model. It is directed toward continual improvement in performance and has the results to show it such as the publicly traded Baldrige Award winners outperforming the S&P by more than 3 to 1.

The Baldrige criteria are divided into seven categories: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management and business results. These categories cut across all aspects in the organization. Any organization can follow the clearly marked path toward excellence using these criteria.

President Clinton aptly described it when he said, "because of the astounding success of its winners in taking care of their businesses, the Baldrige Award has become a symbol of excellence and an inspiration for the rebirth of American competitiveness," Indeed, the Baldrige Award had played a vital role to help the US gain the edge in a fiercely competitive global marketplace. And the Philippines followed suit with other countries and came up with its own version of the Baldrige Award.

The Philippine Quality Award

The Philippine Quality Award (PQA), the centerpiece program of the NAAP, was conceptualized in 1994 by the Development Academy of the Philippines-Productivity Development Center (DAP-PDC), in collaboration with Dr. Luis Ma. Calingo, a Filipino technical consultant of the Asian Productivity Organization, a Baldrige examiner and Dean of the College of Business Administration at the California State University.

He was also instrumental in putting up Singapore's and Vietnam's quality awards.

The PQA uses the same seven Baldrige criteria. However, it adopted the Australian quality award's strategy of having three recognition levels for different categories of organizations in the private and public sector instead of just giving an ultimate award.

In October 1997, President Fidel Ramos signed Executive Order 448, establishing the Philippine Quality Award and creating the PQA Committee. This was done with the firm belief that the framework laid down by the PQA will make our private and public organizations rise to the top with improved quality and productivity in goods and services.

On Feb. 28, 2001, the Philippine Quality Award Act or R.A. 9013, which succeeds E.O. 448, was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, thereby institutionalizing the PQA program. It was principally authored at the Lower House by Congressman Angelito M. Sarmiento and at the Senate by Senators Ramon Magsaysay and Sergio Osmeña III.

Why PQA?

In an era of globalization, the Philippine product and process quality is being challenged strongly by foreign competition, and our nation's productivity growth has improved less than our competitors' over the last two decades. The Philippine business and industry are beginning to feel the adverse effects of poor quality in terms of revenues and profits. A commitment to excellence in manufacturing and services was recognized as essential to the well-being of our nation's economy and in our ability to compete effectively in the global marketplace.

Both public and private sector organizations can use the established guidelines and criteria. Public sector organizations competing for the award are evaluated against the same standards of excellence used for private sector companies and this facilitates cooperation and exchange of information between the public and private sector organizations.

The Award refers to the "Philippine Quality Award for Performance Excellence" and it is conferred annually to qualified organizations in the private and public sector that have demonstrated the "highest level of performance excellence" and deserve to be recognized as national and global role models.

To encourage more participation, three recognition levels were established and are conferred to the applicants that applied for but could not yet fully meet the requirements for the Award for Performance Excellence.

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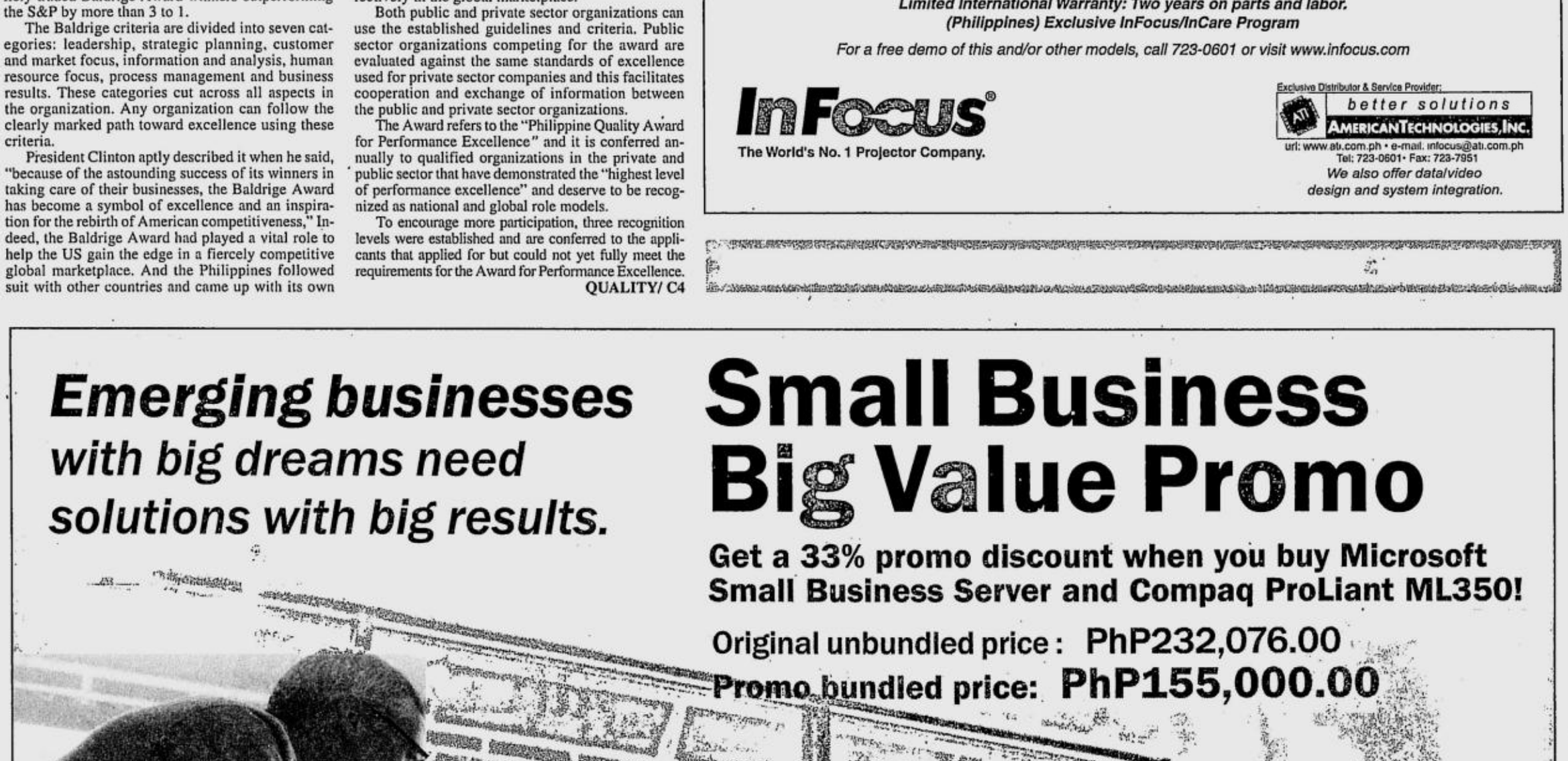

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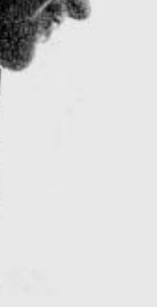

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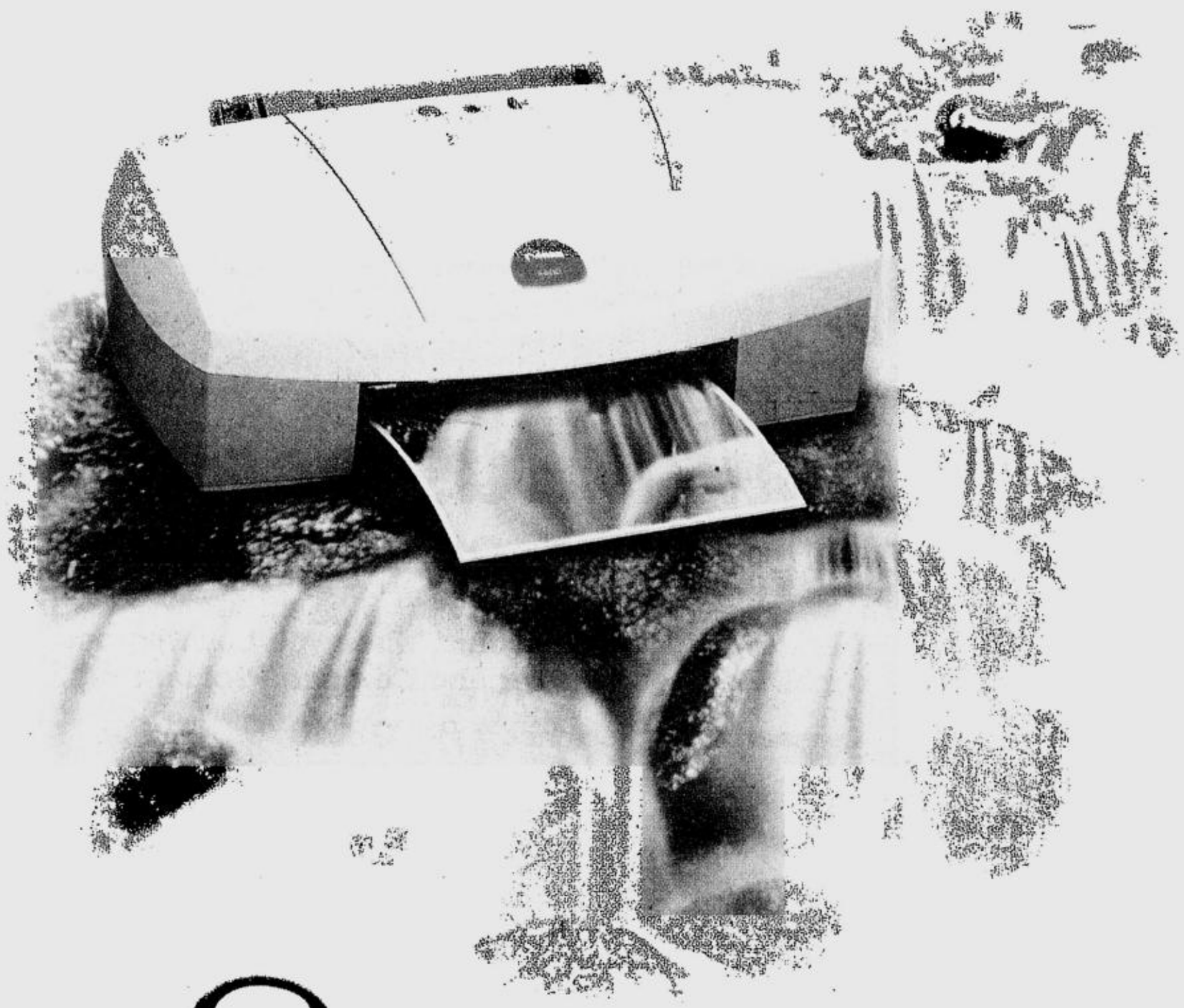

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'I'm not even . . .

(From page C1)

The revelation gave him the embarrassing distinction of being a "mama's boy."

"My mother did not give me a copy of that letter and I find nothing wrong with that. My mother is an activist and she is entitled to her opinion," says the finance chief.

He strongly objected to being called a "mama's boy" as he stresses that among his siblings, he was not even the favorite. Naughty sources said the finance secretary now has to compete with Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II for the title.

Camacho says he is prepared to face up to the Commission for Round 2 and is, in fact, already anticipating the issues that would be tossed the next time.

Among these are the guarantee that was extended by the Macapagal administration to the Argentinian firm Impsa Asia Ltd. as well as the government bonds that were proposed to finance a non-government organization headed by Camacho's sister.

"When I came in as energy secretary, the guarantee to Impsa was already given. As to the NGO, it had been proposed even before I came to the finance department. As soon as I became the secretary, I asked to be inhibited in any of the transactions that would involve the group," he clarifies.

Camacho's appointment is strongly backed by influential groups like the Makati Business Club, the Bankers Association of the Phils. and the Investment Houses Association of the Phils.

These groups say the guy's good name, integrity, and vast financial experience make him the most fit for the job as finance chief. With P330 million worth of assets, people say it is unlikely that he would try to enrich himself while in office.

Camacho's first million, he says, he earned during the early '80s when he started his work as an investment banker. He admitted it was quite vague recalling now the details when he first saw his bank balance hitting seven figures.

In the '80s, Camacho was with Bankers Trust Co. for which he worked both here and overseas.

His career in investment banking peaked in the '90s when he transferred to Deutsche Bank AG, where he later became the managing director and chief country officer prior to his appointment as energy secretary.

A father to six, Camacho notes most of his assets were savings from his salaries during the more than two decades he spent in the financial sector.

Industry sources say a good portion of the assets that Camacho had declared actually came from the inheritance of his wife whom he met at Harvard Business School.

The finance chief describes himself as an innovative and creative financial expert who believes that risk is always part of the equation.

"It's nice to be on the other side because I could easily tell those guys who will come to me with financial offers to cut the bullshit and simply lay the cards on the table," he says.

Quality . . .

(From page C3)

The Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management (Level 1) is given to an organization that has planted seeds of quality and productivity and is starting to venture on a quality journey. The Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management (Level 2) is given to those organizations that have achieved significant progress in building sound processes. The Recognition for Mastery in Quality Management (Level 3) recognizes organizations that have demonstrated superior results and deserve to become role models in the Philippines.

The recipients

The first conferment of awards for the PQA recognition levels was held at Malacañang Palace on June 1998 with President Ramos. Now on its 4th cycle, 13 organizations have received the PQA Recognition Levels 1 and 2. They are: Philips Semiconductors, Texas Instruments, American Microsystems, City Government of Marikina, Amkor-Anam Pilipinas, Data General Phils. Inc., PSi Technologies, Astec Power Inc., City Government of Makati, National Statistics Office, Electronics Assemblies Inc., San Miguel Yamamura and Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing Inc.

Philippine role models

As can be glimpsed from the list of recipients of the PQA Recognition Levels, both public and private organizations are in the race to improve organizational performance and competitiveness. These organizations deserve to be looked upon as role models in the Philippines, or worldwide.

Texas Instruments Phils. Inc. (Tipi), for instance, has productivity that is highest among the five Texas Instruments assembly plants in the world. It is engaged in assembly, testing and packaging of an array of semiconductor devices and integrated circuits used in computer telecom, aerospace, automotive and consumer products in the US, Asia and Europe. It manufactures 70 percent of all cell phone microchips in the world and is the sole supplier of all Nokia cell phone integrated circuits.

From the public sector, Marikina City shows that the initiatives to transform and to make a difference in the local government sector are both attainable. With a strong political will, Mayor Bayani Fernando visualized a Marikina that is "An Industry and Government Friendly, Happy Working Class Community." Saying "Marikina gets it done" is no mere lip service. Their limited resources do not impede them in preparing programs that are simple yet meaningful and effective. The concept of continual improvement is evident in that they innovate and scout for good and doable models.

Eight years, and continuing, the hard toils of the Marikina people paid off in many ways. Marikina is a city that is healthy, clean, green and orderly. Aside from having been conferred regional and national awards, Marikina is now recognized internationally when the Konrad Adenauer Medal of Excellence in Germany awarded it "Best Managed City."

(Part 3 will discuss the PQA program and assessment process. Filemon T. Berba Jr. is vice chair and CEO of Integrated Microelectronics Inc. and president of the Philippine Quality Award Foundation Inc. Juan A. Quintos is chair & CEO of Rosehall Management Consultants Inc. and president of the Philippine Quality and Productivity Movement.)

Know your financial requirements

BY MYRNA R. CO
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

SO you will finally take the plunge—become an entrepreneur! This means taking concrete action to make your business idea a reality.

One of the first things you would want to do is to reckon your financial requirements and then raise the required funds.

GOING INTO BUSINESS

The amount you need would greatly vary, depending on the type and scale of business you have in mind. Is it a video rental shop? A beauty parlor? A *sari-sari* store? Well, then, you may need only a modest amount that you can source out of pocket.

But if you are thinking of something bigger—like a restaurant business or a furniture factory—you will be requiring much more resources and often more elaborate arrangements to raise money.

The financial requirements of any business are numerous. These are of three kinds: fixed capital, working capital and pre-operating capital. Altogether, these are known as the financial mix.

Fixed capital is so-called because it refers to expenditures that are usually one-time. These are the money you will spend on acquiring land and building or paying lease deposits on them, improving land or remodeling the building; acquiring machinery and equipment; and getting furniture, furnishings and fixtures.

Often, but not always, these should last through the lifetime of your business; this is why you spend for these only once.

Working capital is the money you need to run the business day to day, until it earns enough money in sales and in profits to support itself. This includes expenses for your beginning inventories (raw materials and supplies), initial payroll, telephone, electric and water consumption bills, and transportation expenses.

Pre-operating capital is the money you spend before the business begins to operate. This includes expenditures in registering the business, acquiring licenses or franchises, or paying a lawyer or a business consultant.

List down all these requirements one by one. Check this list twice or even more times to be sure that nothing significant is overlooked or underestimated.

It is better to overestimate your requirements a little—as you know, prices tend to go up rather than down. Provide for contingencies or unexpected expenses. If in doubt about your estimates, ask another entrepreneur in a similar business, an accountant or a business counselor. Or you may have business-savvy friends who will help you for a song.

Remember, the bigger and more complicated your venture is, the greater the need for a deeper, more sophisticated study. A full-blown one is called a project feasibility study which banks require for long-term loans. If you have some training in business, or have an aptitude for it, you can do your own.

Others, however, may need professional help. Private management consultants are good at these, but they may charge steeply. Your better bet if you're on a budget would be Department of Trade and Industry field officers—they have regional and provincial offices—who will charge a very nominal fee.

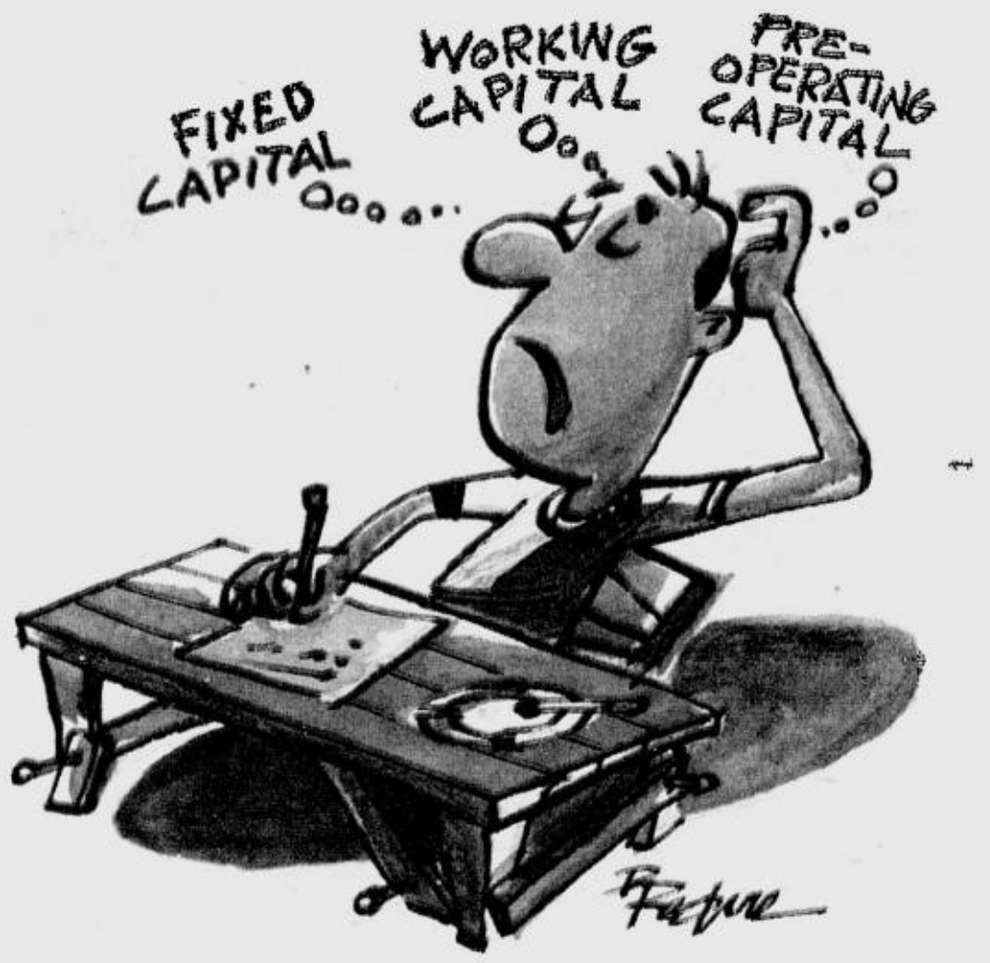
You can also try the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries and other academe-based small business extension units where fees are also quite reasonable.

Now, let's assume that yours is a very small venture. Here's an illustration of a cost forecast that you can easily do for yourself. This example is of a T-shirt printing business.

From the above, you will see that Fit-To-a-Tee Enterprises needs P8,250 in start-up expenses. It is expected that when this money is gone, there would be enough sales revenues coming in that can be ploughed back into the business and keep it going . . . and going . . . and going.

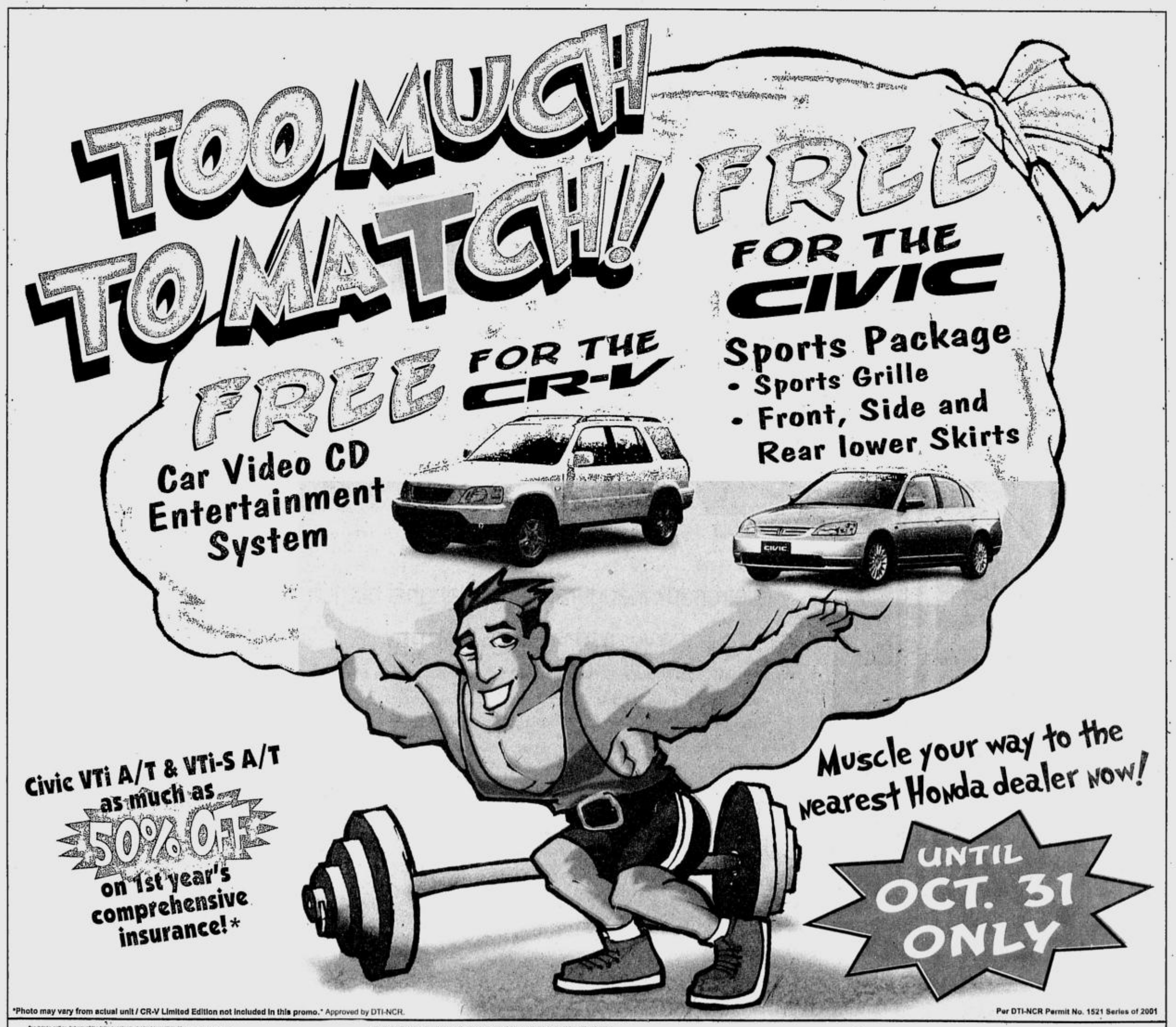
After estimating financial requirements, the next step is to raise the capital required.

(Note: Please check out the following training programs of the UP ISSI for November: Strategic Marketing Course; Total Quality Management Course; and Consultancy Course for Cooperatives. Please call Tels. 926-6316; 928-7076.)



Financial Requirements "Fit-to-a Tee" Enterprises

FIXED CAPITAL		
4 silk screen frames	(P200)	P800
1 stapling machine		P150
2 cutting knives	(P100)	P200
2 paint brushes	(P50)	P100
1 working table		P350
Total fixed capital		**P1,600**
WORKING CAPITAL		
4 liters, textile paint	(P200)	P800
1 gallon, paint thinner	P200	
1 liter, lacquer thinner	P200	
1 liter, clear gloss lacquer	P250	
cleaning cloth		P50
payment to workers (200 shirts @P10 / shirt)		P2,000
rental for work area		P200
Total working capital		**P3,700.00**
PRE-OPERATING CAPITAL		
Registration with the DTI, municipal government,BIR, etc.		P2,000
Contingency		P1,000
Total pre-operating capital		**P3,000**
GRAND TOTAL		**P8,250.00**



Mutual funds start playing the name game

NEW YORK—The last thing a mutual fund with a stellar reputation wants to do is change its name.

But a number of funds are now doing just that because of new government regulations—and some investors soon might have trouble recognizing their own portfolios.

Regulators say it's for their own good.

The Securities and Exchange Commission decided that some fund labels didn't fit their investments, and that was misleading investors. But rather than change their investment strategies to meet the tougher standards, some funds are adopting blander, more generic titles.

Take the $265-million Strong American Utilities Fund. Long admired among investors as one of the top performers in the sector, the fund said earlier this month that it had decided to turn itself into the Dividend Income Fund.

The Emerald HomeState Pennsylvania Growth Fund, which doesn't want to place all its chips on Pennsylvania, and the seemingly oxymoronic-titled Invesco Blue Chip Growth Fund, have declared they would give up their distinctive names. They will be known as the Emerald Growth and Invesco Growth funds.

Under the SEC rule, a product called a small-cap stock fund now must have 80 percent of its assets in small-cap stocks, while a Russian fund must have 80 percent of holdings in Russian securities and so on. Previously, the SEC had insisted on a 65-percent threshold.

Observers who fought for such a rule say a number of fund names confuse the public. Since names often make a huge impression on average investors, the regulatory step was necessary, said Mercer Bullard, a former SEC lawyer and founder of Fund Democracy, a fund shareholder advocacy group.

"The name really does, like it or not, influence peoples' decisions," Bullard said. "You don't regulate for the sophisticated investor. You regulate for the real world and the people who are making bad decisions as well as good ones."

But some in the industry resisted the measure, which went into effect earlier this year, arguing that investors can learn about a fund by perusing its prospectus, which details holdings, strategies, fees and other traits.

New identities

The Emerald fund said in a May 31 statement to investors that it regretted having to make the decision, but that it did not make a lot of sense to keep 80 percent of its assets in Pennsylvania companies.

"We were able to invest an important segment of the fund's assets in companies outside of Pennsylvania, or in cash as a defensive and diversifying measure," Kenneth Mertz, chief investment officer of the fund, explained in the statement.

"New regulations have dramatically cut that percentage, making this move necessary."

The Invesco fund realized how hard it would be to keep an overwhelming part of its assets in both the growth and blue chip categories, said Russ Kinnel, director of fund research at Chicago-based Morningstar Inc.

Growth stocks are normally companies expected to have faster-than-average earnings growth, while the term blue chip usually refers to large stable concerns that deliver earnings and dividends consistently.

The Invesco offering, "is an aggressive fund and it mostly has been invested in tech," Kinnel said. "Blue chip has the implication of safety, something this fund doesn't provide."

Bullard noted that Invesco's decision is interesting because the SEC rule does not target funds using terms like value, growth and even blue chip, which have widely accepted meanings, but can be defined in different ways.

"This suggests firms are going a step farther," he said.

Strong Capital Management said in a statement that keeping 80 percent of the fund in utilities would "limit the portfolio's flexibility," exposing it to greater risks. The fund now will go after dividend paying, bargain stocks, but still concentrate on utilities.

Other funds also have changed their names. The Argentina Fund, offered by Zurich Scudder Investments, recently was folded into the company's Latin America Fund. The company cited the SEC rule, saying it could not find enough good opportunities in Argentina to justify keeping the fund intact.

Funds have until July 31, 2002 to comply with the rule.

When it introduced the regulations earlier this year, the SEC said that at least 350 investment companies would need to take steps to either change their names or strategies. *Reuters*

Pudong, Shanghai

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Metrobank Shanghai is proud to be part of China's rapidly developing economy, strengthening the bond for Philippine-Chinese trade while promoting international commerce between the Philippines and the rest of the world.

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ASIDE from "Pipol," which airs weekly on ABS-CBN Channel 2, Ces hosts another TV program, "Pointblank"—a nightly talk show that airs at 11 p.m. on ABS-CBN's sister station, ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) 21. On top of these, she still has to attend to her husband and children at home.

For Ces Drilon, convenience is a must

YOU'RE the producer/host of a top-rating TV magazine program out on a holiday with your family. Suddenly an idea for a great story pops up in your head. Pen and paper are nowhere in sight and it means you won't be able to ink down the idea right away. What do you do?

If you are "Pipol" frontliner Ces Drilon, you reach for your handy, trusty Motorola i85s to get you up and moving along the business at hand.

The new handset is designed especially for the dynamic business professional of today who are on top of their game or are on their way there. It combines many of the capabilities of a two-way radio, voice recorder, personal digital assistant, interactive pager and Internet-ready mobile phone in a single, compact, stylish handset.

"Since I'm always on the go and meeting people all the time, I often have the need to take down notes on ideas I can't afford to forget," Ces intones. "With the Voice Notes feature of my Motorola i85s, I can easily record my ideas with just one click of a button. It's that convenient!"

Aside from "Pipol," which airs weekly on ABS-CBN Channel 2, Ces hosts another TV program, "Pointblank"—a nightly talk show that airs at 11 p.m. on ABS-CBN's sister station, ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) 21. On top of these, she still has to attend to her husband and children at home.

"It's really quite a challenge for me," she says of keeping up with everything at the same time all the time. And though Ces is thankful that advances in technology have made life easier for busy bodies like her, she used to wish she didn't have to carry around all sorts of different gadgets for various tasks.

Her wish has been granted. These days, Ces is going about her business with less baggage. Her Motorola i85s takes care of most of her professional and personal communication needs.

Ces uses the handset's two-way radio feature to communicate with people closest to her, the Voice Notes feature to record story ideas as well as important snippets of conversation and notes. She also uses the Motorola i85s to organize her schedules and keep herself up to speed with her appointments.

Ces has also found out that her Java technology-enabled Motorola i85s handset can get her easily connected to the Web at all times. Gone are the days of long waiting for Internet connectivity. "Again, with just one click of a button, I can easily access my e-mail and read all my messages anytime and anywhere," Ces notes.

With a lighter load in her hands, Ces says she is less stressed out and more productive. That is, even if she often finds herself logging on hours playing Sega games on her i85s.

You would, too, if you were a busy urbanite trying to stay on top of your game and making the best out of yourself while having fun in your chosen fields—whether it be business, pleasure or both, in the corporate world or at home.

Does money make your world go round?

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

WHAT is your attitude about money? Some of you out there may try to spend as much of your salary as possible. Others would tend to pile up a lot of savings. Then there are those who enjoy watching money make money. Take this quiz to look into your thinking about money.

The quiz is lifted from (though slightly modified) from the website of The Mint, an educational resource on economics.

1. When it comes to saving money:

A. I know I should be saving money, but I never seem to get around to it.

B. I enjoy saving large amounts of money and spend a lot of time and energy thinking about how to save money.

C. I have trouble saving money, and this bothers me sometimes.

D. I save only for absolute necessities.

E. Saving comes naturally to me. I am regular and consistent about it.

2. As far as credit cards are concerned:

A. I don't take much notice of the status of my credit cards. I often forget to pay the monthly minimum until I get a warning notice.

B. I don't mind running up large charges, as long as I can pay them off quickly. I think about my credit card bills a lot.

C. I tend to use credit cards often and make the minimum payment.

D. I prefer not to have credit cards at all. If I have one, I use it as little as possible

E. I have always tended to avoid using credit. I prefer paying by cash or check.

3. When it comes to investing in the stock market:

A. I don't think about investing very often, but if I did invest, I'd want someone else to make those decisions for me.

B. I enjoy investing in the stock market, and I like to diversify to maximize my profits.

C. I'm not an expert at investing, but I think it would be fun to invest in more speculative stocks that might offer a high rate of return.

D. I don't think about investing, but if I made any investments, I'd prefer those that were socially responsible.

E. I choose "safe" and conservative investments.

4. When I want a certain item but it's not within my budget:

A. Either I'll decide I don't really want it, or I'll buy it and figure out how to pay for it later.

B. If I want it, I will buy it. I can always figure out a way to pay for it.

C. I will buy it, whether I can afford it or not.

D. Most of the things I want are not expensive luxury items, so I can afford them. If I do want something outrageous, I may buy it, but the purchase will make me feel very uncomfortable.

E. If the item is important enough to me, I'll figure out how to adjust my budget to afford it. If it isn't that important, I'll forget about it.

5. When I'm feeling depressed, spending money:

A. Is not what I think about to cheer myself up.

B. In large amounts, and hatching plans to make more money, make me feel better.

C. Always cheers me up.

D. Just makes me feel worse. Spending money has nothing to do with happiness.

E. Is the last thing I would do; putting some more money in savings might lift my spirits.

6. I would take (or have taken) a bank loan under these circumstances:

A. To deal with medical emergencies or other unforeseen circumstances but not for anything else.

B. To set up or expand a business, or to make an investment that would yield a high return.

C. To pay off debts, to go on vacations, or to buy something I really wanted.

D. To finance my education, maybe. (I have never borrowed money, and I never want to.)

E. To make essential repairs or to increase my future security.

7. If I won P50 million in the lotto, my first reaction would be:

A. To be totally overwhelmed. I would have no idea how to handle it.

B. To be very happy and pleased, and to immediately start thinking about how I could simultaneously make money grow and use it for my own enjoyment.

C. To be wildly excited, realizing that from now on I could buy anything I wanted!

D. To feel guilty, thinking about the starving masses who have nothing.

E. To feel shocked, a little overwhelmed, and very relieved that my future was now secure.

The site does not show how the points add up into the personality types. But after you finish the quiz, the site classifies you into one of these five types:

- Amasser—You like to see your money make money.
- Hoarder—You like to save every penny. You do not enjoy spending money.
- Money Monkey—You are socially conscience and often feel guilty about having more than others.
- Spender—You enjoy spending money and give little thought to how to pay for your purchases.
- Avoider—You put off making financial decisions.

MOVEMENTS

Plantersbank announces key appointments

AMBASSADOR Jesus P. Tambunting, chair and chief executive officer of Planters Development Bank, announced the appointment to key senior executive positions of four highly experienced bankers.

Lamberto P. Scarella was appointed executive vice president and head of Trust, Treasury and Operations Group; Roberto de Guzman, general manager of PDB SME Solutions Inc. (formerly PlantersbankCommerce); Desi F. Tomas, first vice president; and Cesar D. Polvorosa Jr., assistant vice president and corporate planning officer.

Scarella, an alumnus of De La Salle University, will be responsible for the bank's entry into wholesale lending and the SME investment fund. He brings to Plantersbank his wealth of management expertise accumulated as an entrepreneur and senior-level executive in several of the country's respected financial and investment companies.

De Guzman will infuse over a decade of experience in information and communications technology industry. Until recently, De Guzman was the country manager of a Singapore-based information technology company engaged in providing enterprise resource planning solutions.

Tomas, a veteran banker with nearly 30 years of exposure in management and finance, will be setting up Plantersbank's Small Business Loan program.

Meanwhile, Polvorosa, an honors graduate from the University of the Philippines and a Master of Policy Science degree holder from Saitama University in Japan, is expected to substantially contribute to the attainment of the bank's vision and mission with his extensive background in corporate planning and similar fields.

PALCMI elects new officers

THE PHILIPPINE Association of LPG Cylinder Manufacturers Inc. (PALCMI), which has always been involved in the campaign to clean up the LPG industry, has elected a new set of board of trustees and officers during its recent annual membership meeting held at the Rockwell Club in Makati.

Spearheading the implementation of PALCMI's plans and programs for the year 2001-2002 are Mercedita Pastrana of Goodwill Metal Corp. and Ireneo Quizon of Ferrotech Steel Corp., who were elected president and vice president, respectively.

Completing the roster of PALCMI officials are Joselito Asiniero of Asephil Manufacturing Corp., secretary; Sebastian Arrastia of Summit Metal Works, treasurer; and Eusebio Castro of VH Manufacturing Inc., auditor.

During the membership meeting, Goodwill Metal Corp. was inducted as the newest member of PALCMI. GMC is a relatively new company, which is engaged in the requalification and refurbishing of LPG cylinders.

The association has been an active member of the DOE steering committee together with the other players in the industry, which include the oil majors, the new entrants, the independent refilters and the dealers association.

The steering committee is headed by the EIAB Director Zenaida Monzada who is at the helm of the LPG Task Force that regularly conducts monitoring and inspection of all players in the LPG industry to ensure compliance and safety of the consumers.

PALCMI has also been assisting the Bureau of Product Standards (BSP) in its information drive on the mandatory accreditation of all contractors involved in the repair and requalification of LPG cylinders.

PALCMI has also fought illegal manufacturers and other companies who are not complying to PNS standards.

Thai Airways announces new board

SHAREHOLDERS of Thai Airways recently approved 14 members of the 15-member Board of Directors, pending the appointment of the president. The Board's credentials look rather impressive and Thailand's Finance Minister, Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak, described the Board as "the best ever in the history of the airline."

Financiers dominate the new Board, which is also comprised of bankers, academics, bureaucrats and one businesswoman.

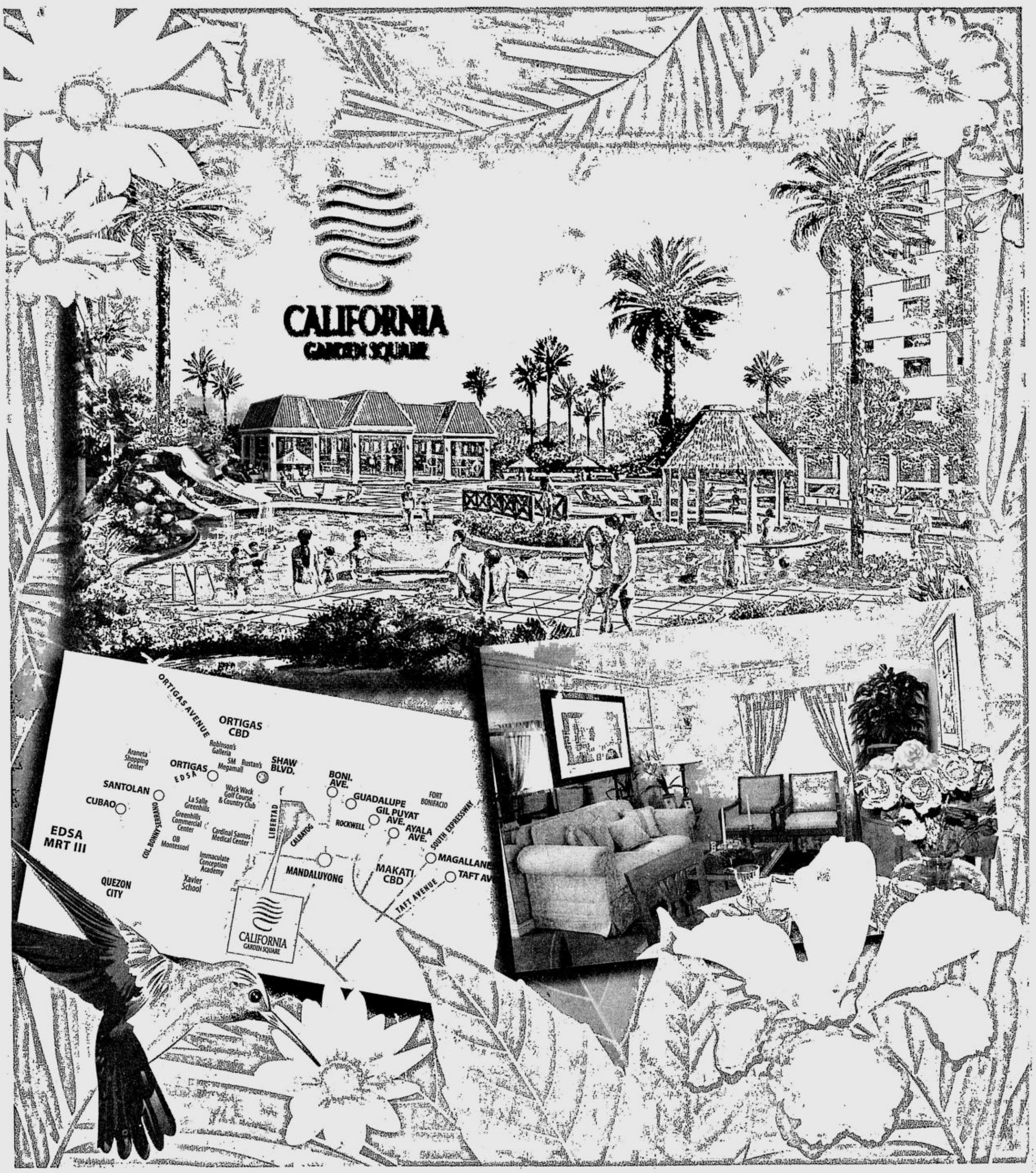
Dr. Virabongsa Ramangkura was voted Board chair and belongs to the academics group. The well-known economist, famous for his call for a baht devaluation in early 1997, is an economic adviser to Thailand's Prime Minister.

Another academician in the Board is Dr. Chaianan Samudavanija, who is also a political scientist.

Dr. Bovornsak Uvano is a member of the board that is an expert in constitutional law.

Another new Board member is Dr. Olarn Chaipravat, a former president of Siam Commercial Bank. A top macroeconomist, he is now adviser to Thailand's finance minister.

The other bankers on the Board are Dr. Vichit Suraphongchai, executive chair of Siam Commercial Bank, Chartsiri Sophonpanich, president of Bangkok Bank and Viroj Nualkhair, president of Krung Thai Bank.



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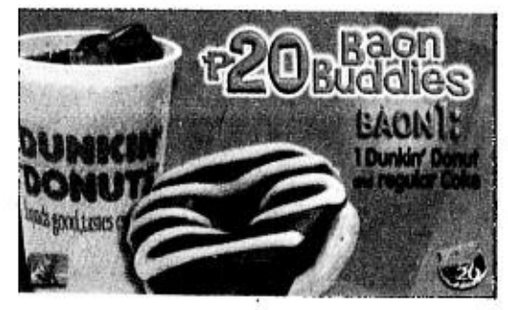


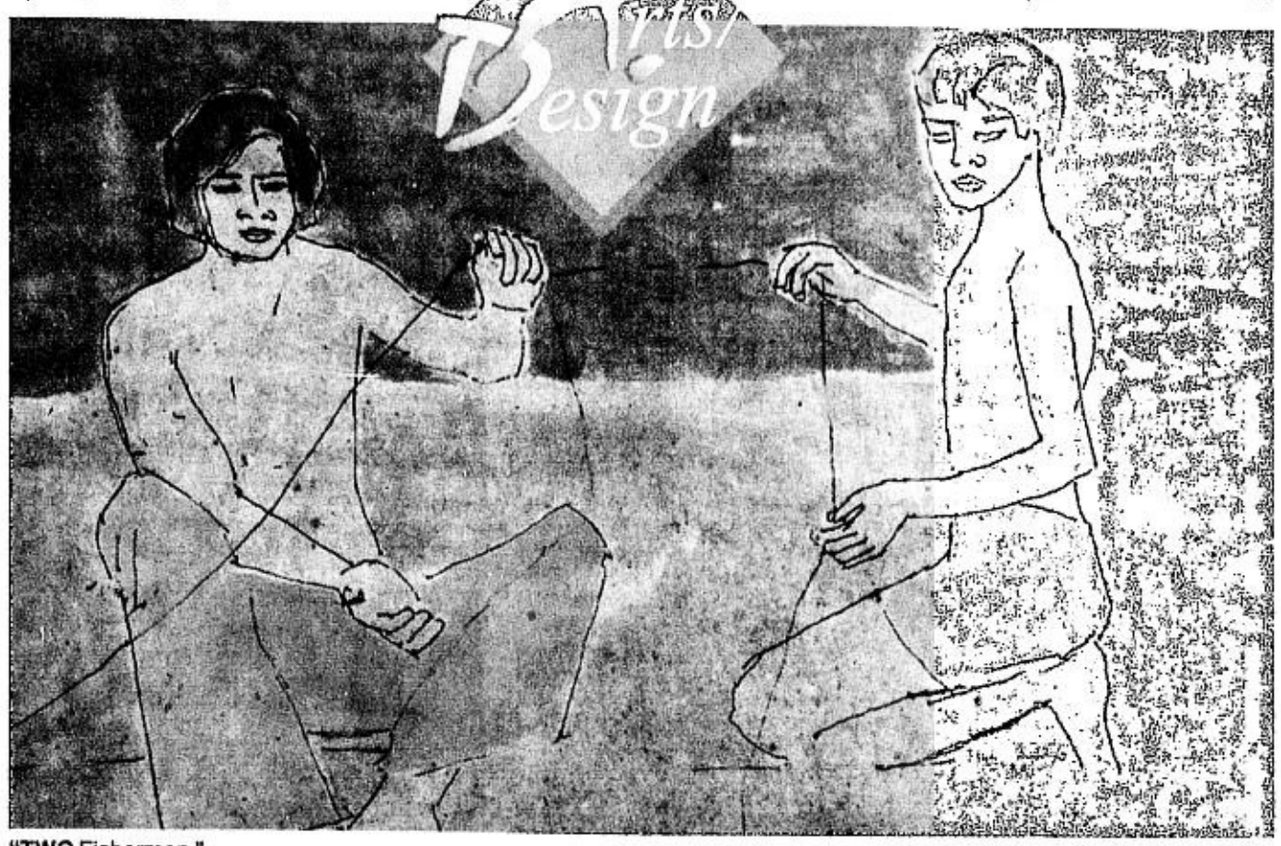
Joan Edades is alive and painting, thank you

BY LORNA REVILLA MONTILLA-GELVEZON

THE TERRIBLE twist in world events recently almost derailed the retrospective painting exhibit of artist Joan Edades at the Ayala Museum. There was no taking everyone off the news and, to the young ones, who was Joan Edades anyway?

Now 68, Joan Edades, a recluse, is a significant artist. Aside from being multiawarded, she is the only child of National Artist Victorio Edades and wife Jean, an American writer. Joan was, at the time of her blooming, a flower child. She had made journeys to Europe and America and caught the fever of the '60s that espoused love, not war.

Joan Edades won honors in several art competitions during the late '50s, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award of Merit in 1956. She painted well into the '70s and had three solo shows in prestigious galleries. When her father passed away and the chaotic '80s came, she accompanied her mother to settle in Davao City. Although she traces her ancestry to Pangasinan where Victorio Edades grew up, Joan feels that her roots are in Davao City, which warmly embraced her like a long lost child.



"TWO Fishermen," water color, 1980

SELF portrait, wc, 1998

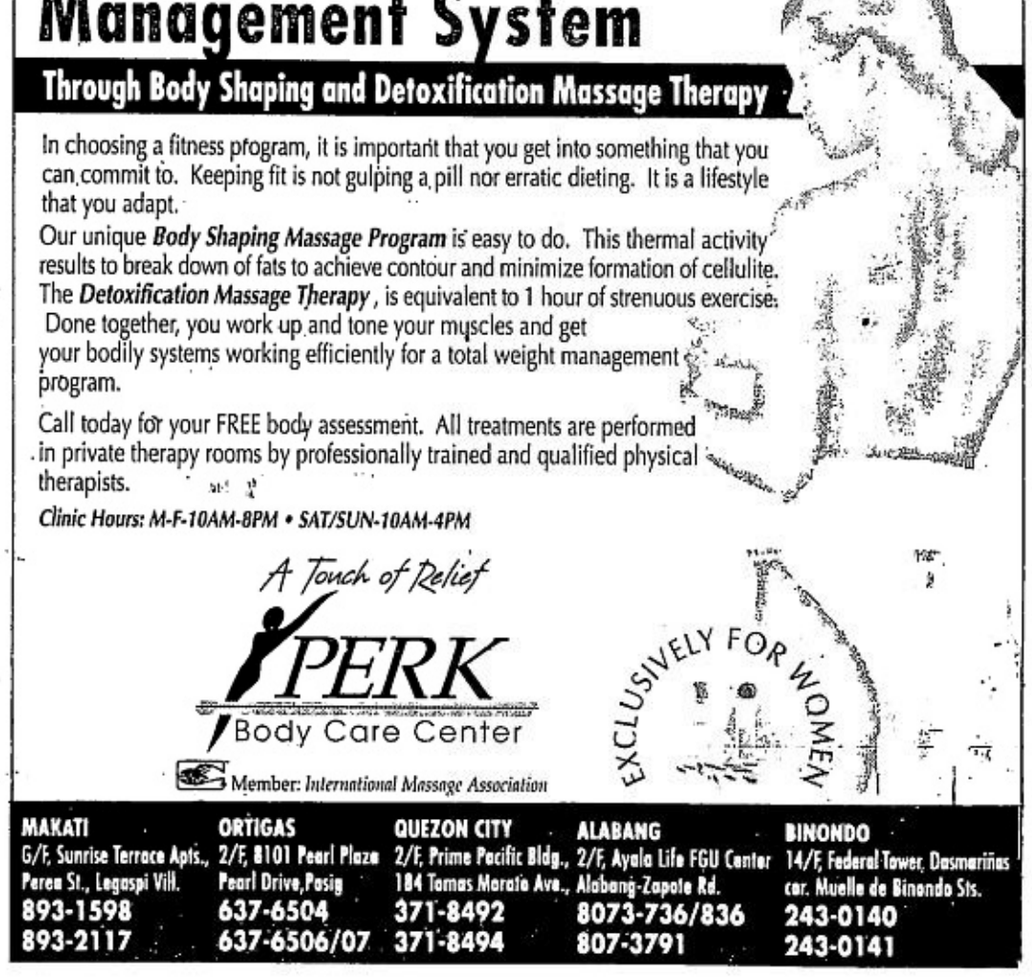
Adamant

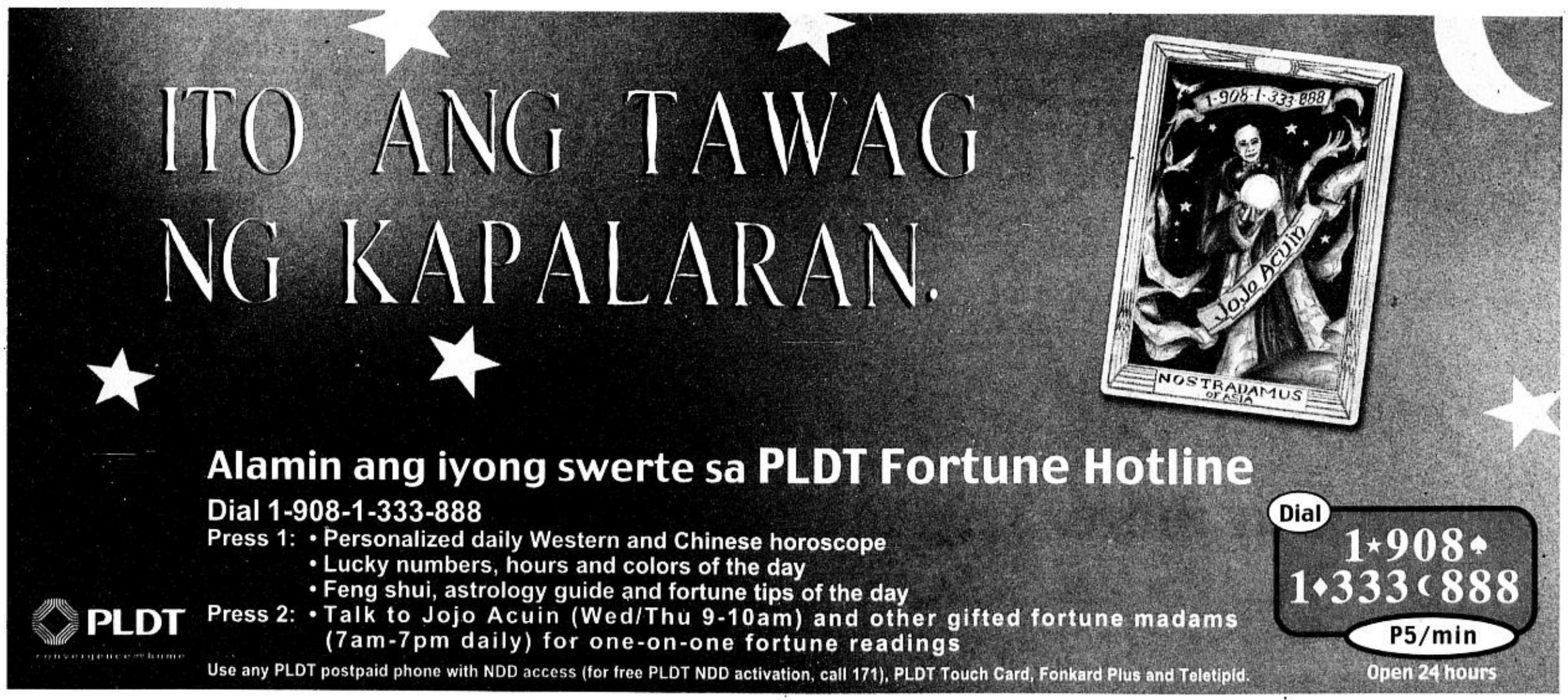
When she was told she should be present at the opening of her show, Joan staunchly refused to come to Manila for reasons only known to her. It could have been a simple case of cold feet, or paranoia, if you like. She was known to have suffered from a nervous disorder many years ago. The sad ending of her marriage to poet Jollico Cuadra, and her sudden separation from her two boys, Christopher and Jason, almost broke her. She stopped painting for a while, wondering what happened to her life. But like most of us, she was able to endure her sadness with courage and aplomb. Reality set in when her mother Jean died. She lived with nuns in a convent if only to survive. It took her some time to start painting again and summon the courage to join group shows in Davao.

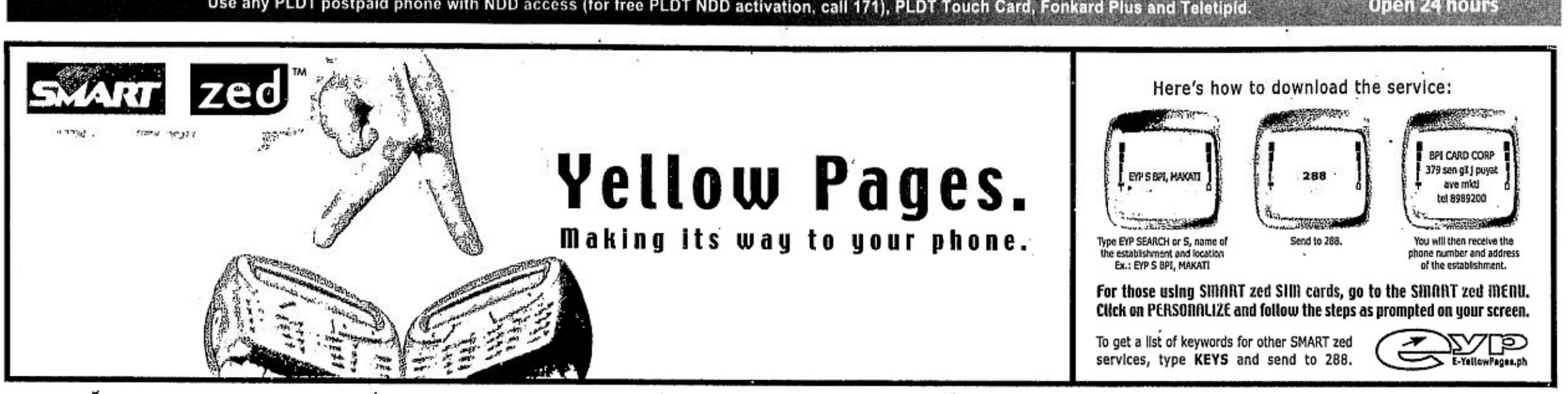
It is an unwritten law in the art world that the exhibiting artist be present during the opening. But it seemed at first that no one, not even Goliath, could pull Joan Edades out of Davao City. Emil Lo had arranged her retrospective exhibit at the Ayala Museum and invited old friends and acquaintances to let them know she is still alive and kicking.

Lo, owner of the very controversial Genluna Gallery in Davao, was not fazed, however. He

JOAN/ p.D3







THE AIRLINE Ambassador at the Shepherd of Hills Orphanage in Zambales

SEATED from left: Myrna Borromeo, Melie Ablaza, Thelma Gana, Letty Syquia, Kay Siazon; (standing from left) Mars Lambino, Alice Briones, Nena Casimiro, Annabelle Adriano, Fortune Ledesma, Nori Ongsiako, Lulu Castañeda and George Hizon

Friends of CCP holds bazaar and ball; Airline Ambassadors in Manila

AMERICAN Airlines flight attendant Eric Woodson with one of the children

THE MUCH-AWAITED Friends of CCP grand bazaar will be held on Oct. 27 at the ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City.

A total of 137 concessionaires will be participating, chosen by the Bazaar Committee composed of **Alice Briones, Nene Leonor, Lucille Villanueva, Pilie Aquino, Nenuca Blardony, Karen Macasaet, Tess Castro, Memen Dy-Liacco, Baby Antonio, Puring Galano** and **Sol Tan-Gatue**.

Shoppers will be treated to a broad spectrum of products such as antique celadons and blue and white plates and dragon jars; art pieces; imported silver trays and bohemian cut-glass crystals; imported RTWs and export overruns; beaded bags, jackets and dresses; fashion accessories and hair ornaments; hand-embroidered blouses and linen dresses; imported leather shoes and bags; imported men's and ladies clothes; delicate *piña*, *jusi*, *hablon* and *batik* fabrics; Belgian lace and embroidered linens and towels; daintily embroidered children's dresses; quilted items; educational toys, books and dolls; ethnic products; stonewares and shell crafts; ceramic and terra-cotta vases and figurines; dried silk and fresh flower arrangements; native baskets; artistic boxes made out of shells, corals and fancy fabrics; beautiful Christmas ornaments and decorations and many others.

Special counters with antique gold *creollas*, *peinetas* and tambourine necklaces, original creations of cultured and natural pearls and intricately designed silver jewelry pieces at very reasonable price will delight the most discriminating shoppers.

Lunch and *merienda* fare will be available the whole day. Bring your family and friends and shop to your heart's content.

Income from the bazaar will support the development of Philippine arts and culture. Call Angie at 817-0670/3905

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

MORI Teylan, Robert Blake, Tani Lloren, Nathaniel Mejica and Marie Ballon

The FCCP will hold its traditional annual ball to raise funds for the Manila Symphony Orchestra and its outreach projects.

The members of the MSO have been supported by the FCCP for the last 15 years. The musicians have been supported since their preteens. They were all trained in St Scholastica's College under Prof. **Basilio Manalo**, and they have now graduated into a group of fine young musicians.

An exciting program is prepared by the FCCP featuring artists from the UST Conservatory of Music.

Theme for this year is adapted from the "Arabian Nights" and the ball, "Two Thousand and One Nights," promises to be another exciting and rewarding night.

Goodwill envoys

Airline Ambassadors, the goodwill mission of major American airlines which is affiliated with the United Nations and recognized by the US Congress, came to Manila to bring cheer and aid to hundreds of orphans of the Missionaries of Charity Home in Tayuman, Manila, the Shepherd Children's Home in Project 4, Quezon City, and the Shepherd of Hills Orphanage in Zambales.

IRENE Gaw with Bob Nimchuck, Fe Mejica and Michelle Harshbarger

The mission was headed by **Robert Blake**, Northwest Airlins manager of information and technical services in Minneapolis. The volunteers included employees from American Airlines, Delta Airlines and Southwest Airlines. Also making the visits were Northwest Airlines Manila staffers such as **Jojo Veneracion, Gary Agarwal, Marie Ballon, Mori Teylan** and **Tani Aragon-Lloren**.

SEATED from left: Thelma Gana, Alice Briones, Karen Macasaet, standing from left Baby Antonio, Lucille Villanueva, Nene Leonor and Memen Dy-Liacco

Print workshop tours the country

PRINTMAKING is a highly technical medium that requires of the artist ample training. The Philippine Association of Printmakers hopes to bring printmaking to as many Filipinos possible, so it is holding "Bakat ng Limbag Sining," an outreach project sponsored by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts.

Translated to English, "Bakat ng Limbag Sining" is "imprint of printmaking." It consists of a traveling exhibit of 52 fine prints from the collection of the PAP, and a workshop on the different printmaking techniques.

The PAP launched the tour-workshop last August at the Tamawan Village, Baguio City. Noted artist and printmaker Bencab, together with Cecille Jabito, Tamawan director, joined PAP in recruiting, providing the venue and registering 30 participants, some even coming from La Union and Pangasinan for the five-day event.

Late August, the team, again equipped with two table top etching presses, metal plates, papers, inks, complete printmaking materials, set off for Calbayog, Western Samar. Primarily organized with the Calbayog Art Association headed by Armando Toleza, the workshop was participated in by 30 eager new printmakers who, as a result, organized a printmaking association even before the team left.

A two-day weekend workshop at Nemiranda's Café and Gallery in Angono saw the same enthusiasm of artists for this medium. The tour-workshop was in Angeles City recently. Next, it will be in Cebu (until Oct. 23); Bacolod (Nov. 4-10), Iloilo (Nov. 11-17), Davao (Nov. 25-30) and Butuan (Dec. 9-15).

The exhibit is composed of fine prints by National Artists Botong Francisco, Arturo Luz, Manansala and Cesar Legaspi; PAP founder Manuel Rodriguez Sr., Bencab, Sanso, Malang, Raul Isidro, Pandy Aviado, Fil Delacruz, Roger San Miguel, Jose Delima, Benjamin Torrado Cabrera, Jesus Flores, Bernard Temporosa, Chris Bayani, Amy Soini, Ambie Abaño, Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Charito Bitanga, Neil Dolorican, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Lenore RS Lim, Troy Ignacio, Salvador Convocar, Al Perez and Mariko Jacinto.

Raul G. Isidro has been reelected PAP president.

PAP president Raul Isidro shows the participants how to prepare a collagraph plate before printing.

PAP officers during the National Print Workshop

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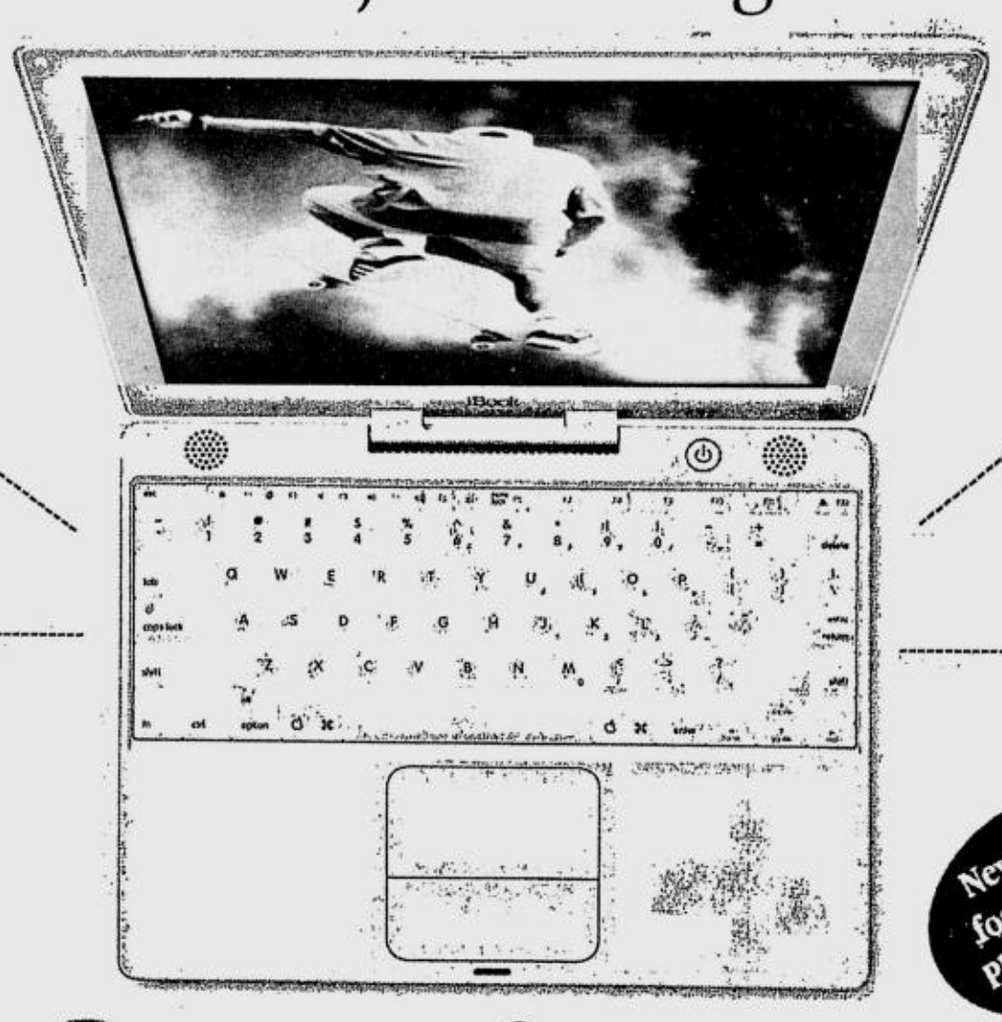

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Joan Edades is alive and painting, thank you

(From page D1)

called up two of Joan's "angels" (this writer and another gallery owner, Norma Liongoren) to fetch Joan even if it rendered his finances several thousands less. He had prepared for this occasion with all his heart, energy and passion for almost a year so that nothing, not even an impending world war, would stop him from making Joan attend the opening of her retrospective. Flowers were shipped from Davao. Lo heaved a sigh of relief when Joan at last relented.

Dressed in a black and white blazer with matching skirt, Joan was all smiles as guests and old friends she had never seen for more than two decades streamed in.

GINA de Venecia, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Emil Lo, Joan Edades, Sen. Leticia Shahani, Arturo Luz and Milagros del Rosario

Guests

One of the first to arrive was National Artist Arturo Luz with wife Tessie. Arturo had followed up Joan's career and lost track of her. After all, Joan's father, Victorio Edades, had already been a National Artist more than two decades before Arturo got the same honor. High priestess of poetry Virgie Moreno came in an apple-green attire and when the warm greeting was over she told Joan that the University of the Philippines had a documentary of her father's works. We saw businessman Max Orendain earlier, looking at the paintings.

Artist Malang and son Soler came, followed by Asia Art Gallery's James Onglepho, Wilson Ma and wife Madonna. Seen going around was gallery owner, Silvana Diaz and sculptor Ramon Orlina. Mila del Rosario, wife of Davao del Norte's governor who is an avid art collector, came early, dressed in what looked like an Indonesian sari tied around the waistline with a gold belt. Seated beside her was Didit van Linden, artist and close friend to Emil Lo. Also an early comer, Clarita Pagulong hobnobbed with Joan and narrated remembrances of the Edades' ancestral house in San Juan, which they bought just before Joan and Jean decided to settle in Davao. Cecilia Ong, representative of Christie's auction house breezed in, escorted lay a young, handsome foreigner.

Norma Liongoren who was assigned to the cocktails was herself dramatically dressed in a *batik malong* complete with *combong* headdress. She greeted guests, asking them not to confuse her with Bin Laden's wife. Equally dramatic was Tam Austria, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat, looking very much like a *haciendero,* sporting a salt and pepper goatee while towing around Divine, his "one and only."

Former senator Letty Shahani arrived ahead of Speaker Joe de Venecia, who was chief sponsor of the retrospective. Joe came with beauteous wife Gina and two sons, complete with an entourage of bodyguards and a TV crew.

Minimalist

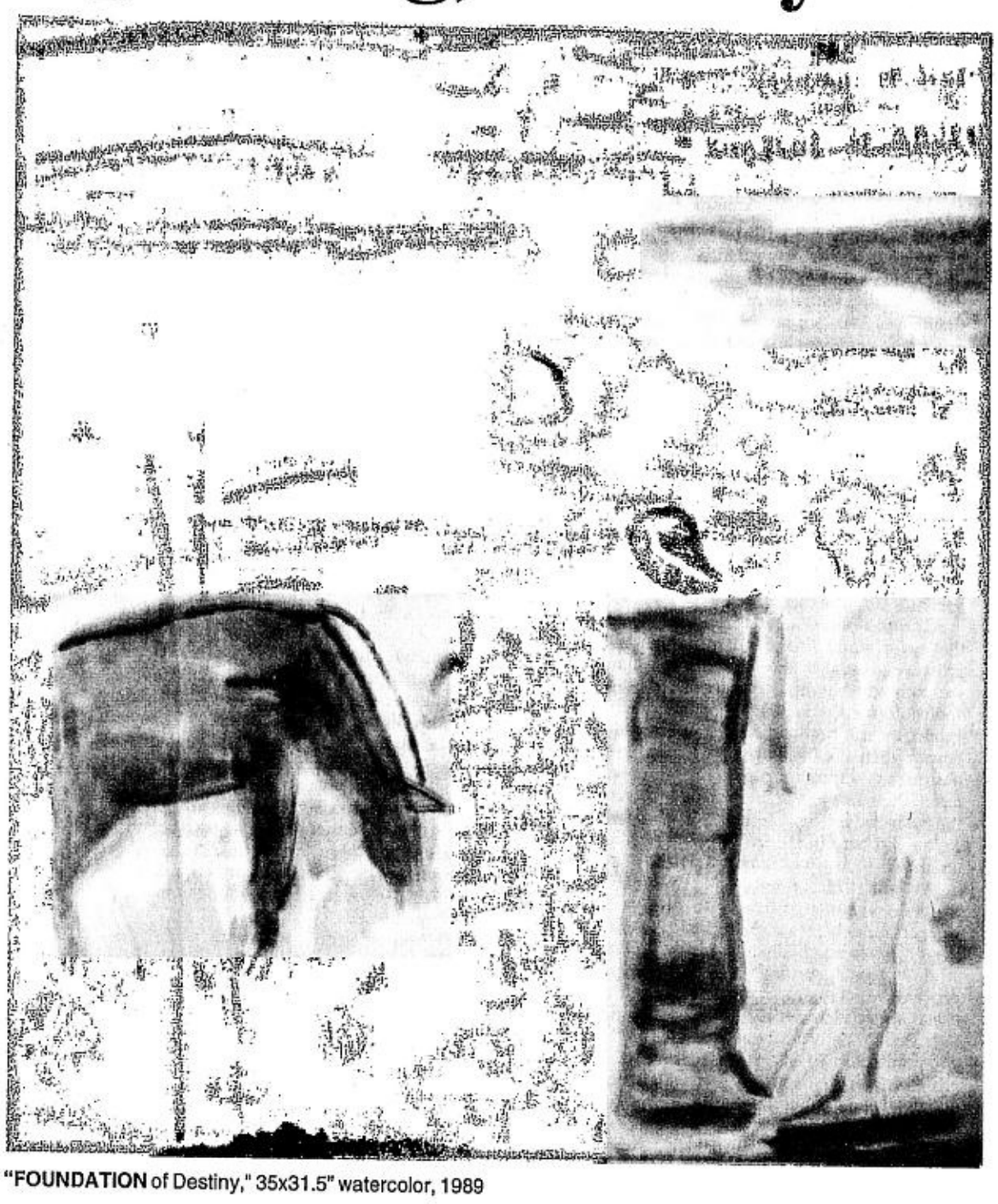
The paintings were done through a span of 50 years, which were mostly minimalist self-portraits of the artist rendered in vary light gouache. A few were graphic drawings of Joan's two sons, Christopher and Jason, when they were still little boys.

The largest one titled "The Foundation of Destiny" depicted an almost incomplete drawing of a carabao grazing somewhere close to a fountain where a naked male stood. This was reserved for the House Speaker. It was chosen by Gina de Venecia for their art collection.

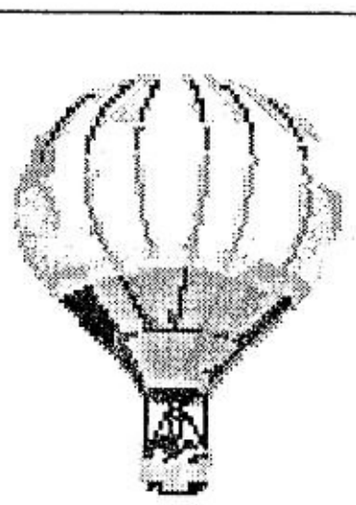
Most of the paintings were done during the '60s and Joan credits her mother for giving them to Lo for safekeeping. Even Joan's earliest small painting was included. Titled "Papa Resting," it is a tribute to her father who first taught her the rudiments of art before she weft to the University of Santo Tomas from where she finished Fine Arts.

Joan flew back to Davao City two days after the opening, happy in the thought that her friends would always be there no matter the silence and distance between them.

To Emil Lo, it was worth all the sweat, the suspense and the sufferance.



"FOUNDATION of Destiny," 35x31.5" watercolor, 1989



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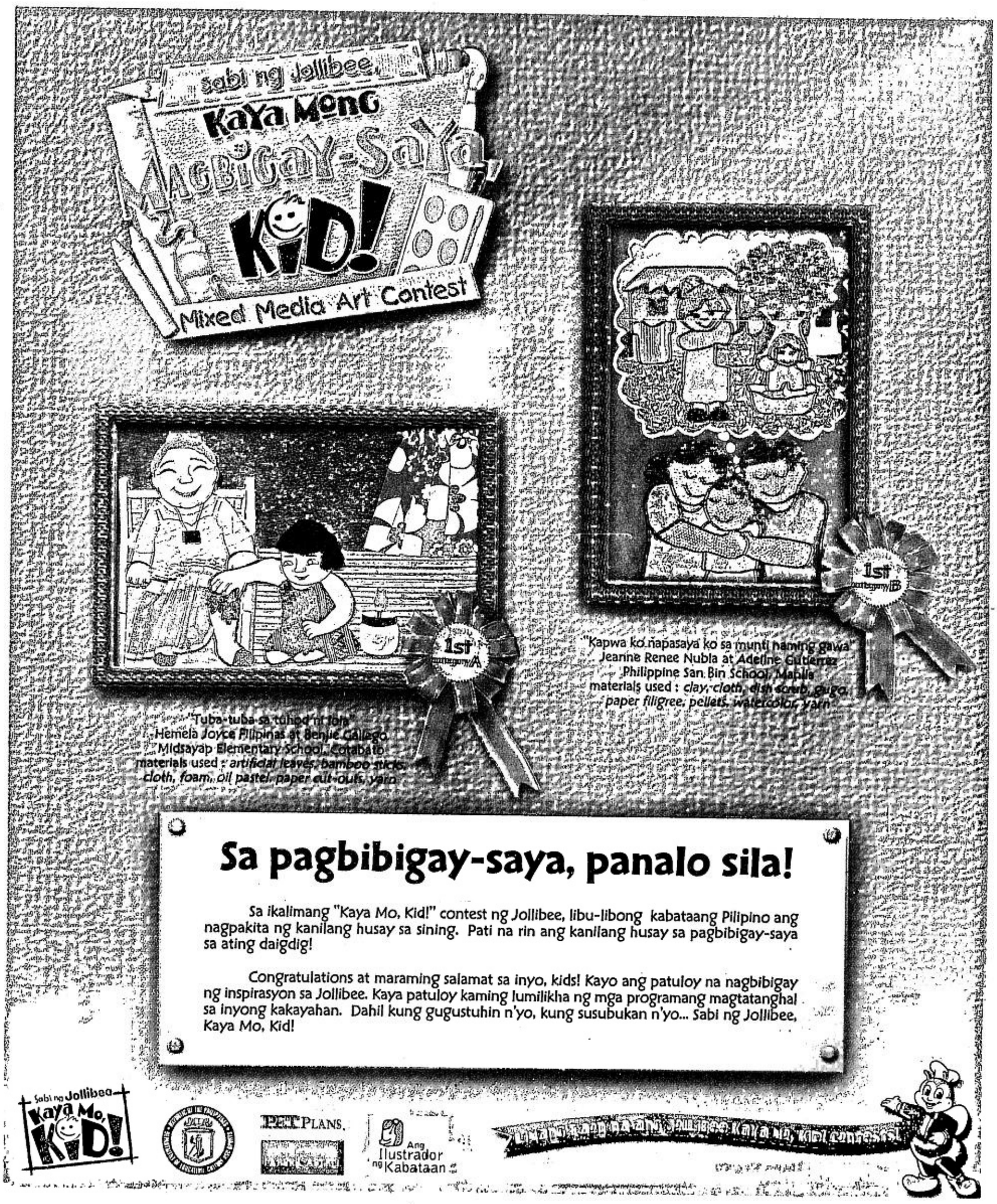


Sa pagbibigay-saya, panalo sila!

Sa ikalimang "Kaya Mo, Kid!" contest ng Jollibee, libu-libong kabataang Pilipino ang nagpakita ng kanilang husay sa sining. Pati na rin ang kanilang husay sa pagbibigay-saya sa ating daigdig!

Congratulations at maraming salamat sa inyo, kids! Kayo ang patuloy na nagbibigay ng inspirasyon sa Jollibee. Kaya patuloy kaming lumilikha ng mga programang magtatanghal sa inyong kakayahan. Dahil kung gugustuhin n'yo, kung susubukan n'yo... Sabi ng Jollibee, Kaya Mo, Kid!

Sabi ng Jollibee Kaya Mo, Kid!

PET PLANS

Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan

Trouble in toontown

BY S.B. ZULUETA

LOCAL articles on the animation industry are usually glowing reports on the Philippines as a key destination for foreign producers because of three major allurements: English-speaking staff, cheap labor and artistic skills. But developments in the past years now disagree with these claims. A new set of values and programs is needed to boost the industry to be competitive again.

English-speaking staff. It is only a factor when you're dealing with a show that requires the understanding of Western humor. Still, a comedy show is just one genre among several animation genres. There remain many straightforward shows that producers can easily send to animation suppliers in any non-English speaking country as long as they have properly translated storyboards, exposure sheets and layouts. In such cases, producers can also monitor daily developments by sending their own directors to screen the scenes for approval. The e-mail and an efficient courier service have also improved coordination between producers and the animation suppliers. Anyway, if one views the other problems plaguing our industry, language becomes less of a factor.

Cheap labor. There were earlier attempts by the major studios to standardize the salaries of artists, but to no avail. The terrible inflation and the constant pirating of topnotch artists were responsible for the jacking up of production cost. Producers still find it cheaper in China and Korea despite their disadvantages. It is ironic that Filipino expats helped train our competitors—the Chinese, Vietnamese and Indians—to get started in the business. It is only a repeat of what the Aussie expats did here in the early '80s when their own animation industry went on a decline.

Artistic skill. It takes around two years to train a good animator. Attempts to promote in-betweeners quickly into animators and the crash training of fresh art graduates straight to animation without passing through the apprenticeship had proven unsuccessful. Although there are exceptional artists who can easily become animators, it is basically study and long practice that make a good animator. Even then, not all artists have the gift of drawing movement. Some are better in layout and design or painting, or in-betweening.

Strangely, in the Philippines, "animation" per se became so deified and highly paid that every artist in a studio wanted to become an animator. The important stages of layout, background painting and clean-up/in-betweening were badly neglected. Lack of skill in these creative areas damage the overall quality of our animation product.

Teamwork

Animation is teamwork, the result of script, storyboards, design and models, art direction, layouts and background painting, clean-up/in-between, digital ink and paint. Only in the middle of this assembly line falls the animation stage. The excessive attention given by Filipinos to animation per se is somehow similar to the infatuation of most local flicks for a stupid camera that merely records the movement and the full gamut of emotions and convulsions our so-called dramatic actors go through. They often forget that production design and the details of the environment are an important part of the whole cinematic experience.

Several years ago, a steady exodus of senior artists to the United States drained the industry. To fulfill their commitments the studios were forced to promote in-betweeners into animators. Then they sped up the training of new recruits to fill the vacancies. At the same time, some enterprising artists formed independent groups who acted as subsuppliers to big studios. Clean-up/in-betweening, in particular, became a cottage industry. Studios desperate to finish more shows handed bulks of folders to the leader of each CU/IB group who, in turn, would hand them to his/her members trained and half-trained alike.

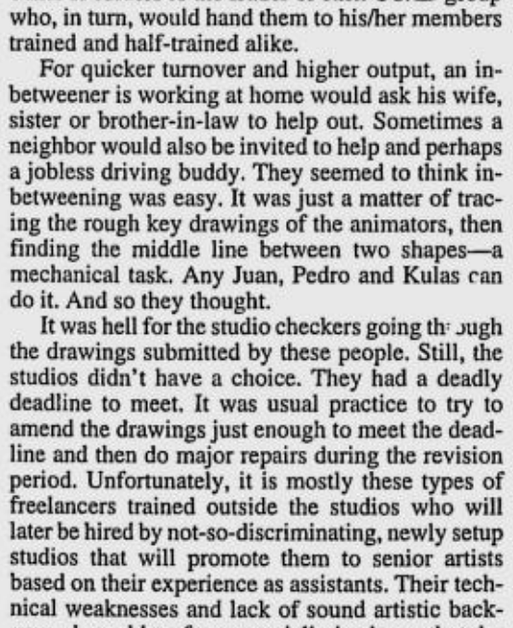
For quicker turnover and higher output, an in-betweener is working at home would ask his wife, sister or brother-in-law to help out. Sometimes a neighbor would also be invited to help and perhaps a jobless driving buddy. They seemed to think in-betweening was easy. It was just a matter of tracing the rough key drawings of the animators, then finding the middle line between two shapes—a mechanical task. Any Juan, Pedro and Kulas can do it. And so they thought.

It was hell for the studio checkers going through the drawings submitted by these people. Still, the studios didn't have a choice. They had a deadly deadline to meet. It was usual practice to try to amend the drawings just enough to meet the deadline and then do major repairs during the revision period. Unfortunately, it is mostly these types of freelancers trained outside the studios who will later be hired by not-so-discriminating, newly setup studios that will promote them to senior artists based on their experience as assistants. Their technical weaknesses and lack of sound artistic background would surface especially in shows that demand serious creative input.

Backbone

A solid classical art training is the backbone of good animation. It is what most of our colleges lack. Interest in traditional art training waned when conceptual art became a vogue during the '60s and '70s. One only has to look at the recent sculptural monuments being erected nowadays to realize how far figurative art has degenerated since the time of Tolentino. Look at the quality of our comic-book illustrations. Gone are the days of Redondo, Javinal and Alex Nino. A country's comic-book art goes hand in hand with the quality of its animated shows.

Modernization also changed the complexion of the business. Hand-painted cel animation had given way to DIP (Digital Ink and Paint) at the expense of



CARTOON by Toonz Animation India

ONE of the big animation studios in India has digital facilities and employs Filipino expats.

laying off cel painters and cameramen. But DIP units are a considerable investment. Not all the major studios can boast of enough DIPs to handle their shows. To be lucrative, the studios must be able to package production from layout to final rendering. Without DIP service their income is seriously curtailed. The production overhead is high with the salary of permanent staff to think about.

As an industry we are still suppliers. We mainly do the production end, which only covers layout, background painting and animation and final render. Preproduction, which includes script, storyboard, design and character models, key layouts and key backgrounds and voice recordings are all done abroad. Sometimes there are projects requiring preproduction, but these are rare cases. The chance to do complete preproduction happens mostly when doing personal or experimental animation and in most TV commercials.

The Philippines is no longer getting a fair share of the market. There are new players to contend like Vietnam. Korea and China, in particular, can do it faster, cheaper, on schedule and of acceptable quality. No longer can we delude ourselves that foreign producers prefer our animation because the movements are "softer." "Acceptable quality" and "on schedule" had become important key phrases.

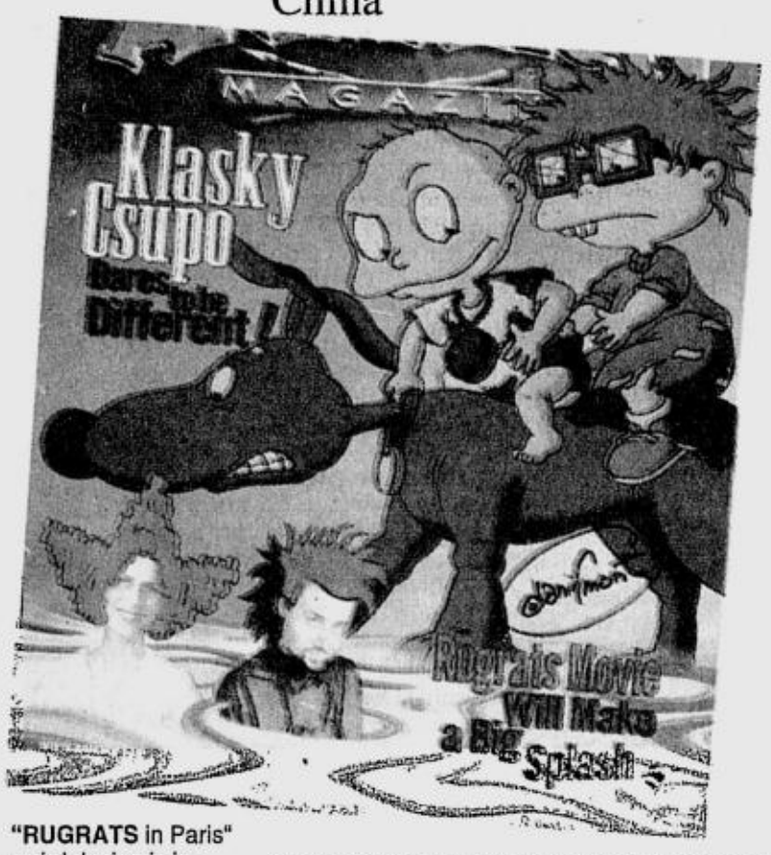
Through the years, small, fly-by-night studios that were lucky enough to obtain foreign contracts grabbed more shows than they could handle. Although a few had sincere desires of providing employment, they fell short of setting up a proper organization and finding worthy staff to maintain product quality. Eventually, their notorious unprofessionalism was mainly responsible for the Philippines' reputation of not meeting deadlines. To aggravate the situation, we suffered the occasional coup d'etats, brownouts, political instability and natural catastrophes.

Some good attitudes prevail. Major studios continue to sample to keep up the quality of animation. (I'm using the word "animation" as a general term to include the varied artistic talents that contribute to the making of an animated product, hoping it is the only way to keep their clients.) There was a time when studios could still afford a six-month training period for new recruits. Nowadays, training has taken a backseat to the struggle to meet daily quotas. Supervisors must train new recruits on the job.

Scared

There is no relief from local producers who are now scared to put money into animation. The haste to complete the first Philippine animated feature did more harm than good to the image of the

The Philippines is losing its edge as one of Asia's foremost animation centers. There are new players to contend with such as Vietnam, Korea and China



"RUGRATS in Paris" weird design is in. Sophisticated color styling. A world consistently shown through the eyes of children

WORK by Toonz India

industry for the product became a gauge for local producers to judge the ability of Filipino animation artists. We have hardly done our own animated series, which already requires a tremendous amount of discipline and organizational skill and yet without taking thought we plunged into the making of an animated feature.

Doesn't it remind us of how Filipinos prepare their athletes for the Olympics a few months before the event, trusting on mere luck and heart? When are we going to learn? Spark and passion can only carry us to a certain distance. The rest of the way is achieved through discipline, consistency and study.

One TVC animation director complained how useless it is to get TV stations and movie studios to finance animation projects. Sure, they are always enthusiastic about the story and the characters but once they get a glimpse of the budget breakdown, they shake their heads and disappear. They have the impression that animation is supposed to be cheaper than live action. They don't realize that in animation, you pay good money for the best visual artists instead of stars.

"KAMPUNG Boy" created by Lat, Malaysia's famous cartoonist is the first Southeast Asian international animated series. The animation was supplied by PASI, Philippine Animation Studio, Inc. and distributed by ITEL, an Indon-based distribution company

Aside from this, local producers expect you to do a Disney, as if they have $30 million and three years' production period and as if Disney is the only style under the sun. There are many styles to choose from—Warner Brothers style, Tex Avery style, UPA limited animation style, Hanna-Barbera style, Marvel style, anime style, etc. Some styles though simple have proven successful.

"PowerPuff Girls," for instance, is done in limited animation style that also spoofs the conventions of anime. The unique style of "The Simpsons" was created by Klasky Csupo studio, that also produced "Rugrats in Paris" with its weird-looking designs. "Rugrats" made more money than either Disney's "Emperor's New Groove" or Dreamwork's "Road to El Dorado."

It is hardly profitable to make an animated series for the local market, but through international syndication it can. Don't just think of creating a show for the competitive US market, but for the expanding Asian market. Did you know that the successful "Kampung Boy" comic books by Malaysian cartoonist Lat had been made into an animated series? "Kampung Boy" is at about the life of a boy growing up in a small village. How hard can that be?

Shows needn't be flashy as those by the Americans and the Japanese. In the United Kingdom, France and Spain, they still produce the same type of shows that have always been popular in the European market—simple stories with simple animation. And low-budget features done in limited animated style can be sold on videos worldwide. The length of a feature is only about the length of three half-hour episodes. You cannot imagine the amount of direct-to-video animation of less worth being sold everywhere.

This is an era where the best style is a personal style. The best approach is to be yourself. Choose a style to fit the concept and the budget. There is always a niche for any type of animation no matter how unpolished. Did you know a lot of divergent animated series started out as mere proposals from small adulation shops and independent creators?

"South Park," the popular paper cutout animation show, started out this way. Animation festivals and conventions are always being held somewhere in the world where short-form animation can be seen by prospective producers. If not, there's always the Internet. The animation industry needs a new game plan to meet the challenges of the changing times.

"TONGUE AND CHILI" by Gene Gonzales

"ASTRUD" by Gino Carlo Tioseco

Sin and passion at Ad-Infinitum Galleries

GENE Gonzales

GINO Carlo Tioseco

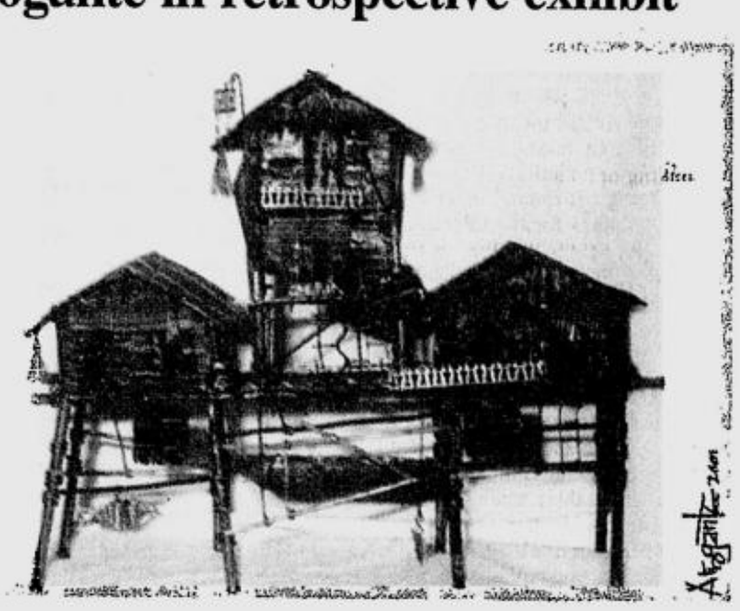
GINO Carlo Tioseco and Gene Gonzalez will hold "Les Bohemes," a joint exhibit at the Ad-Infinitum Galleries (190 F. Blumentritt, San Juan, Metro Manila; 726-9015 or 724-3032) on Oct. 27 to Nov. 12.

"No Sense of Sin" is the theme of Tioseco's portion of the show. The 40 art works in oil and acrylic emphasize that man should not be guiltless since he is inherently imperfect. His inspirations are Edvard Munch, Amadeo Modigliani, and Francesco Clemente.

"The Art of Living and Loving" is the theme of Gonzalez, the chef and gastronomic writer. His paintings, such as "Pas de Deux on a Moonlight Sonata" exudes deep passion and intimacy.

Sculptor Arogante in retrospective exhibit

RAL Arogante is holding "Retrospective Scrapology" at the Cabrero Hall of La Salle Green Hills until Oct. 26. The show marks the 15th year in the art business of Arogante, who heads the Society of Philippine Sculptors and the Committee on Visual Arts of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts. An ingenious artist who puts together copper parts into witty metal art pieces, Arogante draws inspirations from everyday experiences and surroundings. Call 727-3760.



Ching brothers at Power Plant; Mercurio at Madrigal; Coquilla at West

JONATHAN and Mariano Ching will open their exhibit, "If the devil is 6 then God is 7," on Oct. 27 at the Lopez Museum Shop (G/F, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati). Jonathan, painter and Web designer, enters into a personal examination: repent or be damned. Mariano, painter and illustrator, juxtaposes images appropriated from Caravaggio's paintings with cartoon images from washing machines to UFOs. His works relflect ways of escape from reality.

MERCURIO AT MADRIGAL. The Madrigal Art Center (Commerce Avenue, Ayala Alabang, beside the St. Jerome Church) presents "Structures," the first solo exhibit of Esther Mercurio on Oct. 23-Nov. 30. The show features miniature clay art of structures in the Philippines, which include the churches of Miag-ao in Iloilo, Binondo, Bacolor, Barasoain, Molo, Apalit, San Agustin, St. Jerome Emiliani, the Baguio Cathedral and the Madrigal Center. These pieces were made from high-fired glazed stoneware. The pieces serve as fitting documentary of a community's culture, spiritual and artistic. Call 842-0127.

VISUAL ARTS

COQUILLA AT WEST GALLERY. Daniel Coquilla will mount his seventh solo show dubbed "Pssst" on Oct. 25, at the West Gallery (SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City). "Pssst" is a colloquial onomatopoeic word. In Philippine context, it's often used to call the attention of someone, for instance, a stranger, whose name is not known. The exhibit will run until Nov. 6.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT GALLERY 139. Twenty-five Filipino artists whose creations represent Philippine art in all its facets are showcased in an exhibit at Gallery 139, SM Megamall until tomorrow and at the gallery's branch in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City until Oct. 24.

SERGIO AT GREEN PAPAYA. Brian Sergio will mount a solo exhibit, "Small Works After Spontaneous Combustions," on Oct. 29-Nov. 12, at the Green Papaya (Unit 304, Sterten Place Condominium, 116 Maginhawa St., Teachers Village East, QC). Call 927-3187.

GELVEZON-TEQUI AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, Paris-based Filipina printmaker, is exhibiting at the Drawing Room (Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City) until Nov. 7. Tequi, an accomplished practitioner of the color viscosity etching technique, continues her preoccupation with the "game" series, a print series that juxtaposes traditional games with popular electronic ones utilizing the PlayStation. A suite of small and charming landscape prints are also included. Call 897-6990 or 897-7877.

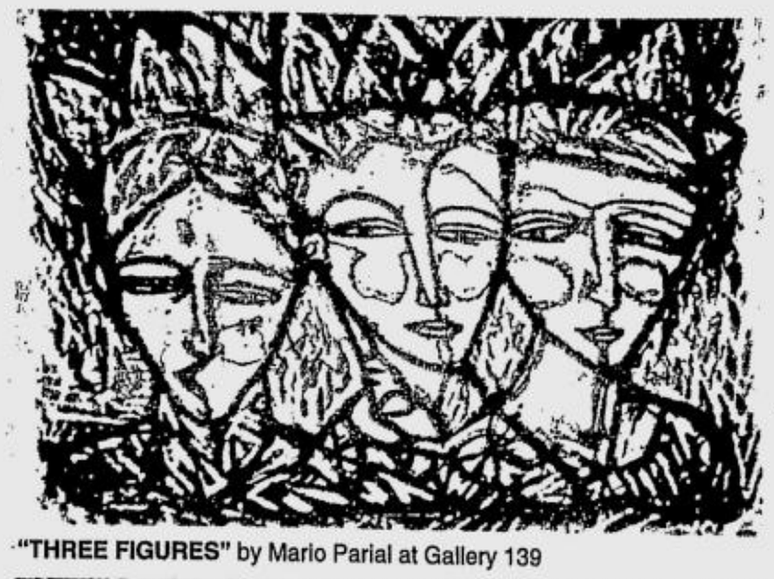
AGUAS AT WEST GALLERY. Architect-painter Bart Aguas mounts his first one-man exhibit, "Tile Art," featuring ceramic tile paintings on Nov. 6-13, West Gallery, Glorietta 4, Makati City. Call Pottery Exchange at 722-9986, or 721-0801.

OLAZO AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Jonathan Olazo, one of the country's leading young abstractionists and a CCP 13 Artists Award recipient, is holding an exhibit of rubbercut prints in black and white until Nov. 7, at the Drawing Room. Call 897-6990/7877.

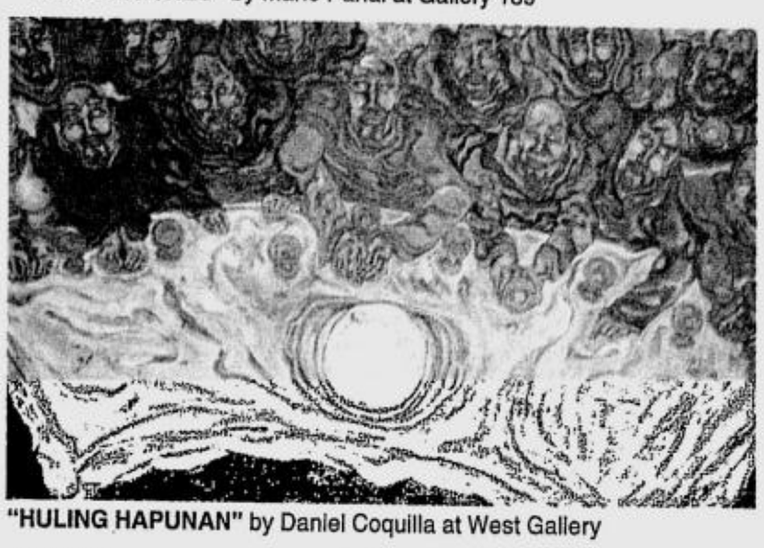
'ARTSPEAK' AT ATENEO ART GALLERY. In line with the "unwrapping" of its new acquisitions, the Ateneo Art Gallery invites the public to witness "ArtSpeak," which was launched three weeks ago as an integral part of the public programs of the country's first modern art museum, with Araceli Limcaco Dans as its first featured speaker. On Oct. 24, renowned printmaker Fil Delacruz will talk about the intaglio printmaking process. The exhibit is until Nov. 17. Call 426-6001, local 4160.

VALINO AT GALERIE Y. Galerie Y (Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati) presents Boy Valino in "Jammin." Re-interpreting the contemporary Filipino's love for music in canvas, Valino employs bright colors with a light touch. The exhibit runs until Oct. 28.

HECHANOVA AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. Highly acclaimed New York-based Filipino artist Lamberto Hechanova returns to the country to exhibit his latest works, "Contradictions," at the Galleria Duemila (4/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City). The exhibit runs until Nov. 4. Call 833-9815 or 831-9990.

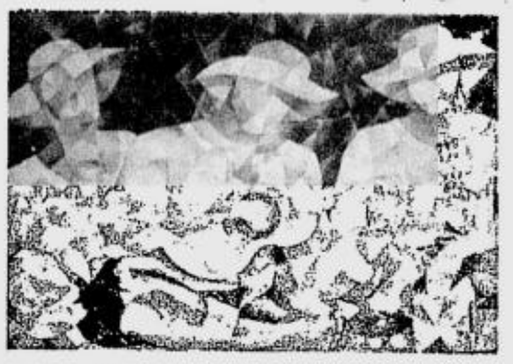


"THREE FIGURES" by Mario Parial at Gallery 139



"HULING HAPUNAN" by Daniel Coquilla at West Gallery

GRACING the Rosario Bitanga art exhibit which opened recently at the Asia Art Gallery of Shangri-La Plaza were (from left) Maria Enpig of the Philippine Women's University, the artist, Vivian Yuchengco, Dr. Helena Z. Benitez, chair of the PWU board of trustees, Irene Araneta and Linda Chincuanco, also of PWU. The exhibit featured for the first time dramatic mirror steel, stainless steel minimalist pieces of sculpture with bases of resin that glimmer with internal designs that fuse base and sculpture.



"MULA NOON... HANGGANG NGAYON" is a group exhibit at the Visual Concepts Gallery (580 Edsa Malibay, Pasay City). Photo shows "Tuwing Lulubog ang Araw" by Noel Catacutan.

"MUCHNESS" by Jonathan Ching

Imported prints and frames

FILIPINO art collectors and enthusiasts will no longer have to go abroad just to look for and buy the world's best art reproductions. Fames Unlimited Inc. (FUI), maker of Elite Arts & Fames Kingdom, now carry prints, which feature traditional and contemporary subjects by the world's finest artists.

Proprietor Daniel Tan said the products use licensed fade-resistant prints and designs that come from the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. "We likewise utilize superior quality mat boards made of wood pulp fibers and calcium carbonate," he said, adding that these are 100-percent acid-free in order to protect artworks and prints.

The imported frames are made from high-quality wood materials. They are painted or treated by non-fade paints.

Frames Unlimited now has branches in Greenhills, SM Centerpoint, SM North Edsa and Robinsons Ermita.

Healing arts produce festive cards

"SIMBANG Gabi"

(From page D8)

do the design for us."

Original Bencab print

Another CRIBS fund-raising project is the sale of the limited edition Bencab original print, "Ang Pamilya," for only P3,000 per copy. The print comes in three colors—*sepia*, blue-back and rose paper.

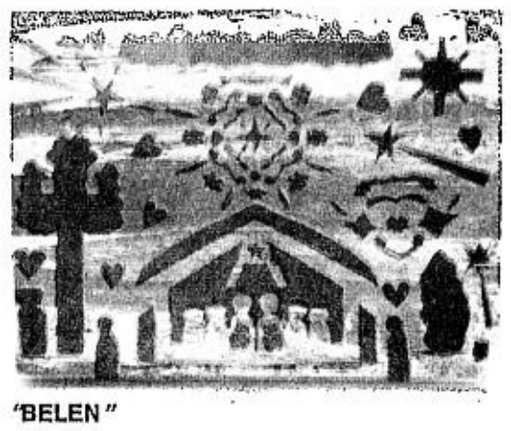
Del Rosario says only 300 copies have the authenticated signature of the artist. The print is attractively packaged and suitable as a corporate or personal gift this Holiday season.

Missionary work

CRIBS began its apostolic work in 1974 when two Lutheran missionary wives brought home two infants from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) that they sheltered and nurtured. Eventually, the women found themselves caring for a bunch of children.

In 1983, CRIBS was licensed by DSWD as a child welfare agency for abandoned, neglected and surrendered infants.

The board of directors decided in 1986 to add



"BELEN"

a second home, New Beginnings, for young female survivors of sexual abuse. It is a 24-hour residential treatment facility, which also shelters victims while the courts are hearing their cases.

New Beginnings now has 25 abused girls and 25 babies. Some of the girls were referred by the DSWD, Bantay Bata and nuns, while others voluntarily sought the shelter's assistance.

To order CRIBS Christmas cards and the limited-addition Bencab prints or to make a donation, call Liway or Lulu at 681-5921 or 647-1329.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

BENCAB'S limited edition, "Ang Pamilya"

Partnership towards a common goal

The Philippine Medical Women's Association and Sun Life Financial share common aspirations and intentions – which are that of improving the quality of health and welfare of the Filipino women of today. Sun Life Financial has a high regard for PMWA's mission as a socio-civic organization whose concerns are not only of the welfare and health of its members but also of women and the community as well. PMWA believes that Sun Life Financial also cares for the health and well-being of the Filipina because of the insurance package specially designed for the woman of today, Sun Milady. This mutual admiration and respect has brought about an affiliation that spells empowerment for both institutions.

"A sincere gesture"

In an effort to help PMWA in its advocacy efforts for the health and welfare of the Filipina, Sun Life Financial offered the organization a "virtual gift" in the form of a website: **www.pmwa.org.ph.** The website will become the channel that will bridge the gap among members and non-members of the PMWA so they can communicate about the organization's various activities and programs, and the concerns of the human and medical societies.

"A venue for change"

Things have started to change in PMWA after its affiliation and launch of the website, **www.pmwa.org.ph** Revitalization of inactive members is picking up and online recruitment is expected to increase more than 4,000. Virtual solicitations by major pharmaceutical companies may be allowed to post their banner ads on the website. Through this, community projects like the "Crisis Intervention Center" will be funded and built. Lastly, the promotion of camaraderie between members will flourish because the website offers more than just information. Electronic greeting cards for anniversaries and birthdays may be sent to fellow women doctors and regular social interaction through chats and forum will keep them in touch. These are the multi-faceted, positive changes the PMWA are experiencing thanks largely to Sun Life Financial's virtual gift.

"Sun Milady's sunshine"

Sun Life Financial is the first life insurance company in the Philippines with more than 106 years of service to the Filipinos in the country. Its expertise and experience in providing lifetime financial solutions have benefited many generations of Filipino families. Inspired by the growing awareness of women towards their health and the coming of age of the Filipina, the Sun Milady was born. Sun Milady is a comprehensive, personalized financial plan tailored for the woman of today that gives Lifetime Insurance Protection, Cash Values, Female Benefits, Free Diagnostic Procedures, and more. For those preparing for motherhood, the Sun Milady Plus was created. This insurance package is exclusively from Sun Life Financial and brings more than just sunshine to its owners. Sun Life Financial and PMWA's partnership is about taking care of the woman's right to good health and well-being.

"A partnership's inspiration"

This partnership aims to reach out to others and provide them the opportunity to share in their vision and mission for the Filipina of today. PMWA and Sun Life Financial invite women doctors to register directly online. **For current PMWA members, please re-apply online to avail of the Free Personal Accident Insurance of P100,000 care of Sun Life Financial. For non-members, register online now as a member to be eligible in receiving this benefit.This is only available until November 15, 2001. So visit PMWA's official website: www.pmwa.org.ph and register now! Call the Secretariat PMWA Bldg., V. Luna Rd., Malakas St., Quezon City*Tel. # 921-3947 and 925-0191 for details.**

When women connect

The Philippine Medical Women's Association and Sun Milady of Sun Life Financial, as partners, share the same vision and goal of providing a better life for the Filipina.

PMWA is a reflection of committed, selfless women doctors determined to maintain the health and improve the general welfare of Filipino women in all walks of life.

Mirroring the same compassion is **Sun Milady**, a comprehensive life insurance package, which provides the Filipina of today protection, security and financial independence.

Two independent entities now discover common pursuits and foster a special connection.

With **Sun Milady** behind members of **PMWA**, these women of medicine find renewed strength to accomplish twice as much for society, creating a difference in the lives of the Filipina that is even twice greater.

Committed, selfless women doctors can now register thru our website: www.pmwa.org.ph. Our Secretariat can also receive your calls at telephone nos. 921-3947 and 925-0191.

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION 1949

Philippine Medical Women's Association, Inc.

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Contemporary Mindanaoan Art: Notes from the margin

CHRISTOPHER Rollo, "Good Si Mare Tan"

BY JAIME AN LIM

PHILIPPINE art today is still largely Manila-centric although efforts have been made to "mainstream the fringes" as seen in such exhibits as "Art Manila" and "Sungdu-an 2000."

Panit-Bukog 2, a joint project of the Mixed Media Artists Group, the Oro Art Guild and the Davao Artists Foundation, gathered the works of 27 painters and sculptors from the north and south of Mindanao in an attempt to showcase current art trends in the region. Bobi Valenzuela served as the guest curator.

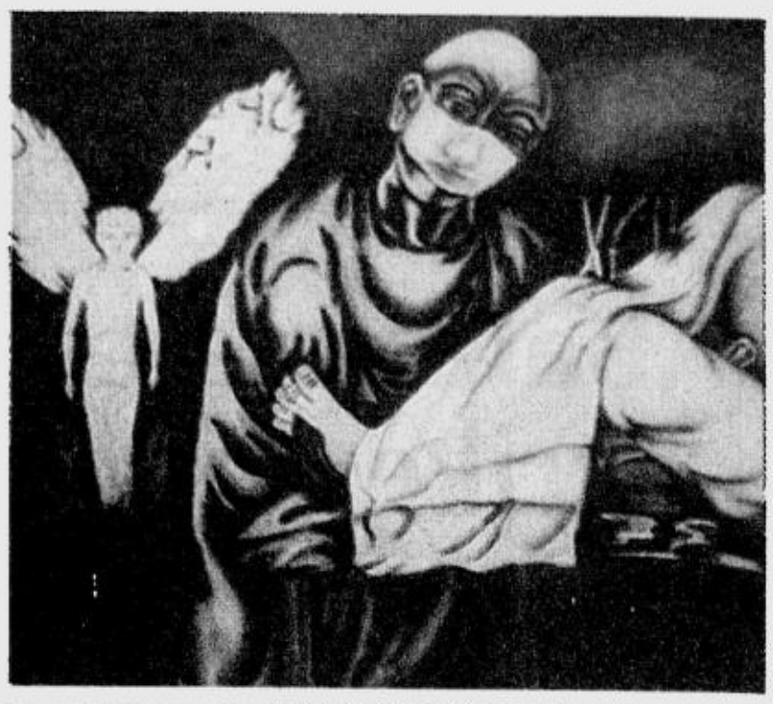
Participating artists include Jong Tangiday, Abe Garcia, Boboy Buenaventura, Bong Espisona, Dante Pintor, Joseph Rom, Nonoy Narciso, Rene Jereos, Rey Fuentes, Rick Villafuerte, Rose Tradio, Weng Echavez, Ely Neri, Jaime An lim, Chris Gomez, Kurt Lluch, Leah Padilla, Rahuel Antonio, Cris Rollo, Errol Balcos, Marlon Bollozos, Michael Bacol, Nick Aca, Nonoy Estarte, Oca Floirendo, Rey Bollozos and Rhine Sahagun.

Mindanaoan art is commonly characterized as tribal or ethnic (the use of nativist motifs, curvilinear lines inspired by the okir, rich colors, Muslim and *lumad* costumes and paraphernalia, traditional rites, etc.) as popularized by the work of Norberto Monterona of Davao, Mariano Catague of Butuan, Saudi Ahmad and Rameer Tawasil of Zamboanga and Leah Padilla of Iligan. Or perhaps, art becomes identifiable as Mindanaoan only when it exhibits such distinctive ethnic trappings.

The current exhibit, however, manifests a richer and more pluralistic tendency in the choice of themes, techniques, materials and visual vocabulary use by Mindanaoan artists.

For instance, Buenaventura's "Mga Alaala sa Posporo," 76.2 x 61 cm., is a playful and elegant assemblage consisting of painted matchboxes containing fragments of treasured memories: miniature plastic toys, sea shells, stubby pencil, marbles, wristwatch, blade, condom, crucifix and others.

Rollo's "Good Si Mari Tan," 76.2 x 91.44 cm, acrylic on canvas, plays on the idea of the Good Samaritan of the Bible with an ironic homoerotic twist. A rich braceleted man leads a poor boy to a house of pleasure and doom.



LEAH Padilla, "Still Scream"

Connection

Bollozo's "Message Not Sent This Time," 121.9 x 91.4 cm, acrylic on canvas, wittily combines two instruments of communication—Rosary and cell phone—and one seems to have failed to make the connection to God.

Gomez's "Black Diaries," 183 x 138 cm, mixed media on plywood, is a modernist diptych of rectangles documenting in cartoon-like images and texts the beginning, the flowering, and the dissolution of a personal relationship.

Padilla's "Still Scream," 106.6 x 91.44 cm, acrylic on canvas, is a radical departure from her earlier works of colorful *malong*-clad Maranaw women. In her current work, a naked woman lies on an abortionist's operating table, with a row of fetuses in glass jars in the foreground and a hovering angel in the background (presumably the aborted baby's spirit). A small pool of vivid blood between the woman's thighs jumps out of the predominantly black, gray and blue canvas.

Lluch's "The Dreaming," 152.4 x 91.44 cm, mixed media on plywood, is a haunting monolitic depiction of a bound man inspired by comic book art images and fantasy.

An Lim's "An Art Lesson," 121.9 x 91.4 cm, oil on canvas, creates a tension in the ostensible subject matter (the texts or instructions deployed on the margins giving the step-by-step process of creating the painting).

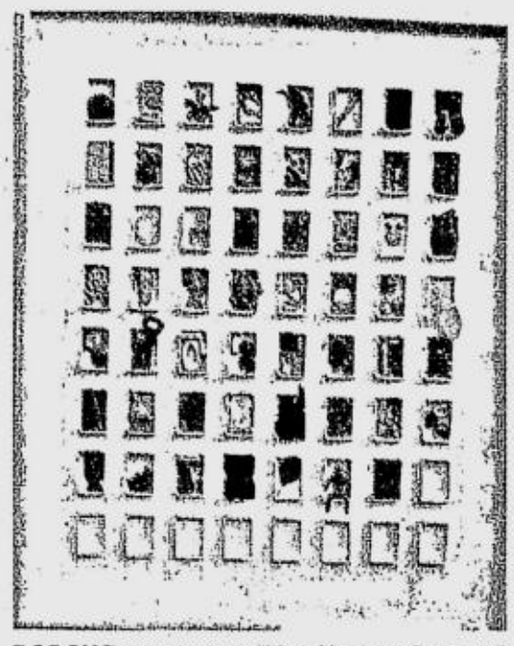
Homelessness

Antonio's "Pahulay," 91.44 x 60.96 cm, mixed media, addresses the social issue of poverty and homelessness although a singular image of a child sleeping in a wooden crate, which is more coffin than home.

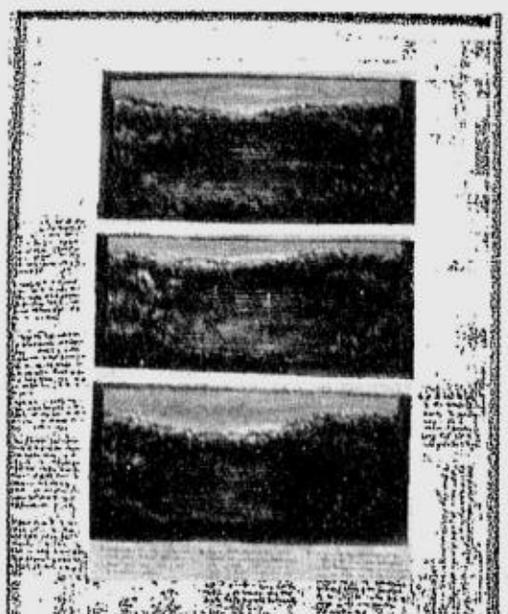
Espinosa's "Quantum," 122 x 91.4 cm., mixed media, is probably the only piece in the entire exhibit which can properly be characterized as ethnic with its use of *lumad* iconography, although the modernist title and the traditional theme signals a deliberate ironic disjunction.

These works reflect not a homogenous vision, but many and highly individualistic vantagepoints from which personal or social issues are fruitfully addressed. Perhaps, ultimately, Mindanaoan art cannot be defined in terms of a distinctive theme, style, attitude or state of mind, but in terms of a plurality of engagements capable of accommodating even the most subtle and the most dramatic differences and contradictions.

Co-sponsored by the Office of the City Mayor of Iligan, the travelling art exhibit can be viewed in Cagayan de Oro until Oct. 28, and in Davao City, Nov. 10-24.



BOBOY Buenaventura, "Mga Alaala sa Posporo"



JAIME An Lim, "An Art Lesson"

Women's Right #9
A woman has the right to protection against pregnancy complications

Women's Right #74
A woman has the right to freedom from worries in times of ill health

Women's Right #33
A woman has the right to a benefit for every child she delivers*

Women's Right #176
A woman has the right to an investible fund

Women's Rights

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- Surgical Benefits (Hysterectomy, Dilatation & Curettage, Major Plastic Surgery due to accident or Skin Transplantation due to accidental burning)
- Free Diagnostic Procedure, Terminal Illness Benefit, Benefit for every child delivered*, and Maternity Benefits that protect you from pregnancy complications (Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation, Hydatidiform Mole, and Ectopic Pregnancy)

*Up to a maximum of two

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Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is the first and oldest life insurance company in the Philippines. Insurance products are offered through Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc., a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.

Baldness can strike anybody

It has always been believed that only men are affected by baldness and that this condition arises only during old age. Although a larger percentage of males experience baldness, females are not exempted from this. And even if baldness often comes with age, cases indicate that even the young experience hair loss.

Generally, the chances of going bald increase just after mid-20's when age starts to affect the health of the scalp and hair. During this decline, the circulation of the blood and absorption of nutrients by the hair follicles begin to slow down. Thus, hair strands become duller, weaker, thinner in diameter, more prone to fall and die. Although age is a factor that causes baldness, premature thinning of hair is a natural process that can also be inherited. There are also outside factors which can result to baldness. Inadequate nutrition, stress, prolonged illness, post-operative effects, slimming diets, pregnancy, prescribed drug treatments, overtreating of hair, excessive perming, bleaching, color treating, overexposure to heat and overstyling all contribute to hair loss.

So it really doesn't matter if you're young or old, male or female. If baldness runs in your family or if you have exposed your hair to harmful elements, you're bound to lose your hair sooner or later. But if your scalp is not yet in a smooth and shiny condition, this means your hair follicles are still alive and can be revitalized if addressed soon with the right treatment.

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THE WOMEN behind CRIBS: (from left) Mercy Cabrillas, executive director; Cecilia B. Garrucho, president, and Marivic del Rosario, chair

Healing arts produce festive cards

BY VAANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

USING the arts to heal the wounds of a horrifying past experience and to get a fresh start in life has proven effective especially for the sexually abused young women of the Create Responsive Infants by Sharing (CRIBS) Phils.

For six years now, CRIBS has used art therapy to help the healing and recovery of the 25 girls, aged 7-17, in its care who were sexually abused. The arts have helped the young women express themselves freely, a skill that has enabled them to gradually regain their self-confidence and self-worth.

Cecilia Garrucho, president of the CRIBS board of directors, said through art classes, the girls had amazingly begin to open up and trust their professional caregivers. "Many times, in the past, they couldn't cope with their painful experiences, but we allowed them to draw, paint and dabble in different art forms. It was a perfect release."

The use of art therapy at CRIBS is attributed to Garucho, an artist and a Peta (Philippine Experimental Theater Association) performer. She initially brought in Alice Pañares of the Philippine Art Educators Association to introduce the girls to the arts.

"**PASKO** Sa Bawat Tahanan"

These days, the girls are supervised by Alma Quinto, who provides stimulation and inspiration in their artworks. She also teaches them different art techniques like stenciling and recycled papermaking. The girls are also getting to know the works of the masters, like BenCab.

Garucho said, "If you look at their works, you would never know that those were done by badly damaged kids. The colors are bright and happy. It's like nothing ever happened to them, but when you learn about their experiences, you wouldn't be able to reconcile (it with how they are now)."

The girls' artworks have already been featured in different exhibits. Some have been sold.

This year, CRIBS has included in its annual Christmas cards sale three new designs done by two young girls, both victims of gang rape, during one of their art therapy sessions. This year features three special designs: "Belen" with blue background, "Pasko sa Bawat Tahanan" and "Simbang Gabi."

"Each card you buy helps to bring them closer to the path of healing and recovery," says Marivic del Rosario, CRIBS chair. The cards are a testimony to the girls' indomitable spirit.

A set of 10 Christmas cards sells for P200 or P20 per card and comes in a corrugated box. Companies may order 300 pieces of Christmas cards with their corporate logo printed. Proceeds from each card will support a child's process of healing, recovery and reintegration to her family and community.

"Through the various workshops we select a few artworks to include in our annual Christmas cards," says Del Rosario. "This year, we chose to make it childlike. We don't need to get a professional, fancy artist to

HEALING/p.D6

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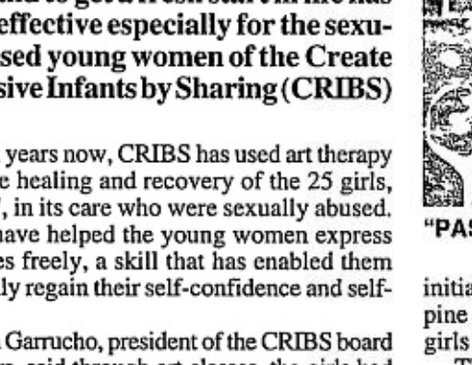

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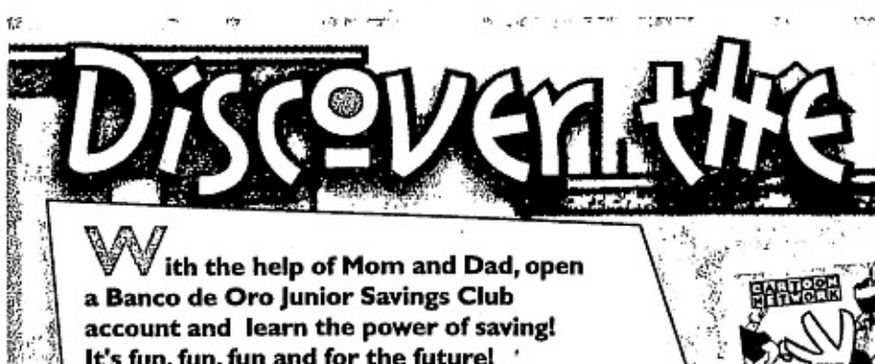

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THE PEACE Philharmonic Philippines

Negros as a concert destination

BY PABLO TARIMAN

MANY things come to mind as I prepare for a visit of Bacolod City with the Peace Philharmonic on Saturday and Sunday.

I developed a desire to see this place after I saw Peque Gallaga's landmark "Oro, Plata, Mata." Naturally, my favorite highlights were the scenes showing an intimate living room concert with the characters listening to operatic arias during the Japanese Occupation. That film was my first inkling that Negros had a long love affair with classical music even before the war. I wasn't surprised that Gallaga was an opera lover and that he figured (as director) in the Feliciano opera, "La Loba Negra," written by Fides Cuyugan Asensio, who portrayed one of the middle-class matrons in the Gallaga film.

Piano legend Artur Rubinstein played in Negros in the late '40s; American divas Blanche Thebom and Helen Traubel sang here on the same decade. My favorite room in the house of the late doctor-cellist Francisco Kilayko (one of the founders of the UST Symphony) and his wife Carmen, was a room by the stairway where La Traubel stayed. I love the living room of this house, which extended to a garden full of blooms.

Looking at the Kilayko family album, I saw a photo of Traubel in a *nipa* hut which was the Bacolod airport terminal in the '40s.

It was the memory of the late doctor-cellist that prodded me to bring Brazilian cellist Antonio Meneses (a gold medalist in the 1982 Tchaikovsky Competition and the father of Cecile Licad's Otavio Meneses) to Bacolod in the mid-'90s. Hearing the Mendelssohn sonata for cello and piano for the first time, I saw tears flow in the cheeks of the cellist's widow, Ms Carmen Kilayko.

Bacolod's neighbor, Silay City (the hometown of the country's first and last mezzo of consequence, Conchita Gaston), was called "The Paris of Negros." Looking at its old ancestral houses, I understood why. Almost every house had a grand piano and every Negrense of consequence studied voice, piano or the violin. A Negrense ballerina, Cecile Sicangco, was for a time, a memorable Giselle. I would see her at the Bacolod Gymnasium some years later when she danced Giselle with Cuba's Julio Bocca at the CCP.

My first glimpse of the city's music lovers was the tour of the Manila Symphony in the mid-'80s where my host was tireless Rotarian Sonny Elegado whose daughter, Chipay, was a UP piano major and member of the Philippine Madrigal Singers (she is now with the Ateneo Glee Club). The orchestra played Beethoven's Fifth under Gilopez Kabayao, and wife Corazon Pineda was soloist in the Liszt concerto which was highlighted by percussion obbligato courtesy of a forest lizard.

My next visit was a year later with Tchaikovsky laureate Rowena Arrieta who played Chopin at Bacolod's St. Scholastica's College to the delight of the school music head, Sister Scholastica Benitez, whom I first met in Bicol. We were treated to a post-concert picnic in a Silay farm by Negros Piano Teachers Guild president Carmen "Emen" Gamboa whose daughter was an aspiring soprano.

Seeing Bacolod's town plaza for the first time, I was surprised to see the names of Bach and Beethoven inscribed in the plaza monument.

And then it dawned on me that 98 percent of my Bacolod visits—from the '80s to the '90s and in the new millennium—had something to do with music and musicians. I dined with the Madrigals at Bacolod's "Pala-pala" (that seaside *turo-*

Bacolod has had a long musical tradition. Its neighbor, Silay, was known in the old days as the 'Paris of Negros'

NEGROS/ p.E3

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St. Anthony Shrine in Sampaloc needs restoration

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

IF you cannot afford to go to the Basilica of St. Anthony de Padua in Italy, you can instead visit the beautiful church of St. Anthony Shrine in Bustillos, Sampaloc. Every Tuesday, Masses are attended by devotees. Novenas are also prayed to the saint, who is called by the Catholic Church as "the miracle worker."

My mother and I have a special devotion to this saint because he saved my life twice. When I was 2 years old, I fell from the second floor window of my Lola Sima's house in Laoag and landed on a sharp bamboo. I was rushed to St. Anthony Hospital, where a doctor put stitches on my left side.

The second time was when I was operated on for achalasia on April 23, 1985 by Dr. William Olalia at the UST Hospital. My mother prayed in the chapel during the operation. Luckily, it was a success.

As a thanksgiving, I am promoting the devotion to St. Anthony de Padua by leading the novena on Tuesdays at the Ermita Church. A Mass will also be held at 12:15 p.m.

History of Anthony shrine

The new Rector of St. Anthony Shrine, Fr. Wilfredo Benito, gave me a short history of the church, which is the place to go on Tuesdays when a special novena to the saint is held. Of course, there's also Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati.

The Franciscans arrived in Manila on July 7, 1578 and stayed with the Augustinians until they had their own convent.

The Franciscans started to stay in Sampaloc in 1613 with the construction of a convent to be used as a novitiate. The site was donated by Don Pedro de Chavez and his wife Doña Ana de Vera, who, at the same time, financed the construction of the church and convent. The church was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin under the title Our Lady of Loreto in 1616. The holy image placed at the main altar is still there. As a matter of fact, the church of Loreto and the St. Anthony Shrine are in the same compound.

FR. Wilfredo Benito

Devotion to St. Anthony

While Our Lady of Loreto church flourished, devotion to St. Anthony became popular at the St. Francis Church, Intramuros. But everything was destroyed during World War II.

Fr. Mariano Montero transferred the image of St. Anthony from Sta. Ana Church to Sampaloc.

The hymns written by Father Montero were sang during the novena Masses. The good priest named the church Shrine of St. Anthony. The reconstruction of the church and residence of the priests was finished and rededicated to St. Anthony de Padua by Archbishop Rufino Santos in 1947.

Rebuilding the church

Like any other edifice, the St. Anthony Shrine has been invaded by termites, especially its ceiling. Father Benito said the repair of the ceiling alone will cost P1.5 million. He hopes to start working on the reconstruction in November, but there is still no money. Devotees of St. Anthony and generous readers, please help. Write to Fr. Wilfredo Benito at St. Anthony's Shrine, 254 Manrique St., 1008 Sampaloc, Manila or call him at 734-6526.

According to Father Benito, the shrine has been receiving testimonies of healing and answered prayers. He will submit to the CBCP a request that the church be declared the National Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua in the Philippines.

Thousands attend La Naval fiesta Masses

I was at Sto. Domingo Church on the last day of the novena to Our Lady of La Naval. I was one of those who gazed at her beautiful face and prayed very hard for my intentions and those of friends. For nine days, thousands came, singing and praising God for giving us the Virgin of La Naval.

When you are in the presence of the Virgin, you feel a sense of well being. You know you are given help. And this is the most wonderful news of all. Whatever your need, you know that God will provide through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. Did she not ask Juan Diego in Guadalupe hundreds of years ago: "Am I not your Mother?"

Congregacion holds anniversary

The Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Nino Jesus will hold its 21st anniversary celebration with a Mass on Oct. 28 at the Sto. Niño Chapel, Violago Compound, E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC.

Three new members will be inducted, namely, Val de Mesa, Art Borja and John Enriquez.

The Congregacion recently launched the coffee-table book "Sto. Niño: Holy Child Devotion in the Philippines." Written by Abe Florendo and Dez Bautista with reports from Dulce Festin Baybay and myself, the book explores the widespread devotion to the Sto. Nino since the first image was given to Queen Juana by Ferdinand Magellan in Cebu in 1521.

The dances and rituals accompanying this devotion go hand in hand with the people's prayers and lighting of candles. Each province has its own way of honoring the Child Jesus. Available in soft cover, the book, which features 810 photographs of George Tapan, is offered at Page One bookstore, Rockwell Center or by calling Ben Farrales at 524-8439.

ST. Anthony Shrine in Bustillos, Sampaloc

Kannawidan induction

Kannawidan is a foundation composed of Ilocanos who promote the culture and heritage of Ilocos Norte. There will be an induction of officers and trustees on Oct. 24, 6 p.m., at the Manila Polo Club.

To be inducted are Rose Marie Lazaro, president; Amparo Javier Araullo, vice president; Evelyn Ranada, secretary; Daisy Mae Asuncion, assistant secretary; Gasat Oledan, treasurer; Baby Doble, auditor; and trustees: Justice Wenceslao Agnir, Goergia Alviar, lawyer Antonio, Bonoan, Justice Conchita Morales, Lita Roque and legal counsel Justice Buenaventura Guerrero. The council of advisers includes Francis Ablan, Max Edralin and Rosie Castro.

Marian exhibit at Queen's Row

The Block Rosary and Promoters of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish headed by Mildred Dalluay are holding a Marian exhibit until Oct. 28 at the exhibit hall of the church. Marian images from different parishes and private collectors will be displayed. The theme of the event is "Maria... Ina ng Integrated Journey Man."

Novena prayers will be said at 4 p.m. in the exhibit area. A grand procession will be held on Oct. 28, 4 p.m., followed by Holy Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Warriors novena

The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls will launch a nine-day novena for the holy souls on Nov. 2 at the St. Pancratius Church in La Loma, Grace Park, Caloocan City. The culmination of the novena is a recollection on Nov. 10, 8 a.m., at the Spirit of Love Catholic Community chapel located at the Manila Seedling Bank Compound, Edsa corner Quezon Avenue, QC. Fr. Jojo Zerrudo will be the spiritual director. Call 531-0386.

Bahay Kalinga in Ermita

The Bahay Kalinga, built by Msgr. Jerome Reyes with Pagcor and other donors, is now in operation at the compound of Ermita Church. The Hospitallier Sisters are running the place. By the way, belated happy birthday to Monsignor Jerome. The parish organization attended an asalto given by Mercedes Rosas at her new building on M.H. del Pilar Street on Sept. 27.

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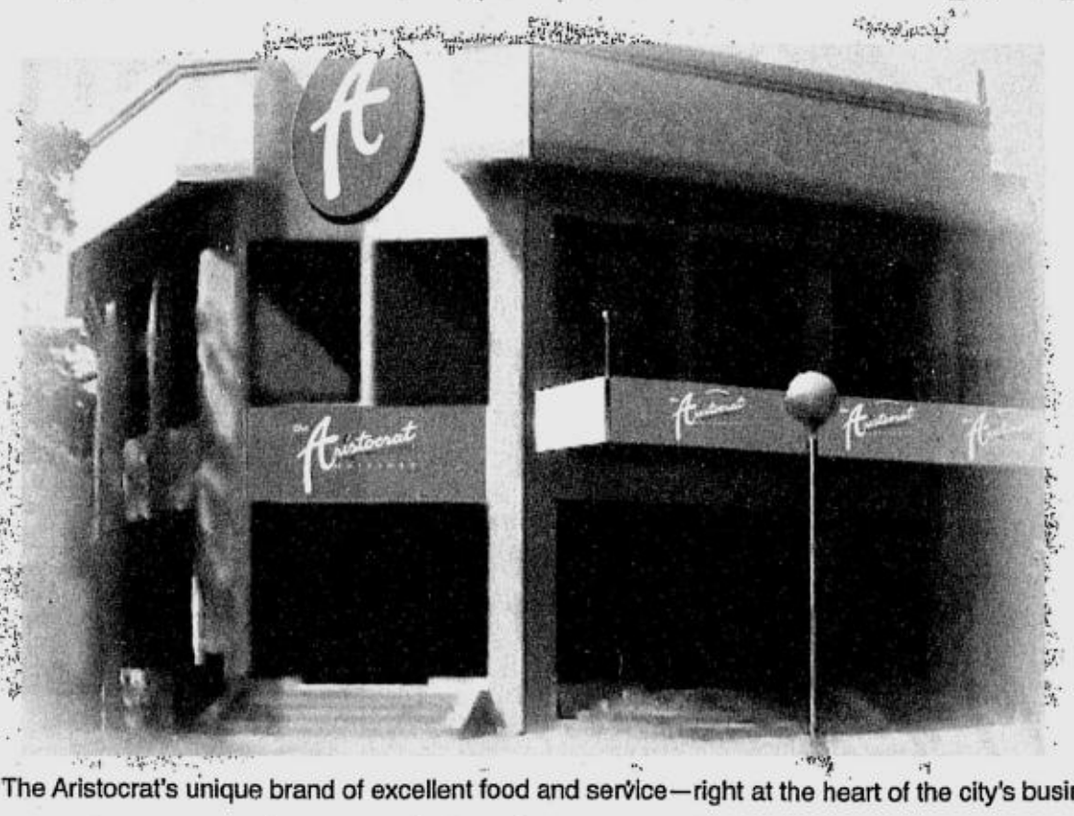

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CECILE Licad admiring Bacolod handicrafts

Negros as a concert destination

(From page E1)

turo). I enjoyed a round of Remy Martin in an intimate post-concert reception for tenor Gary del Rosario courtesy of Bacolod Bishop Camilo Gregorio who plays the piano (he is the sister of Mary Ann Gregorio de Guzman). I enjoyed Japanese food courtesy of the Negros Cultural Foundation which hosted the concert of Filipino-Japanese piano prodigy Makie Misawa (Mt. Kanlaon erupted when she played in Bacolod and Silay in 1996). Violinist Joseph Esmilla and I stayed in a house overflowing with "Christian music" day in and day out. Before Licad and Meneses separated, we enjoyed another post-concert picnic in Silay (again in the farm of Emen Gamboa) where my favorite post-concert repast was a round of vodka with cultural worker Lyn Gamboa and swimming in the family pool where aspiring pianist Della Besa and sister Doreen must have spent some of their youthful Silay summers.

(One of my non-musical missions in Negros was interviewing Negros producers for three successive years. I survived the task by swimming in the abandoned mansion of the Benedictos after a whole-day documentation session while the voice of Bulgarian coloratura Editha Gruberova played in the background. Negrense and now National Artist for Architecture Lindy Locsin threatened to "kiss and hug" an impresario if he succeeded in bringing La Gruberova to Manila. The impresario, a controversial one, didn't succeed but brought in a Wagnerian substitute. The offshoot of these non-musical visits was that I got to inspect Bacolod's concert venues courtesy of Visayan Star editor-publisher and PDI columnist Ninfa Leonardia and editor Carla Gomez who wondered why I was clapping all alone by myself while trying to test the hall's acoustics. Those acoustics tests in various venues paved the way for a return engagement of Cecile Licad in Bacolod in the early '90s.)

I look forward to another musical interaction with Negrenses when the Peace Philharmonic will play Schubert and Milhaud with Gerry Varona as soloist in the Telemann concerto.

Here and There

Cecile Licad has just finished recording 17 pieces by Gautchuk, two of which—"Banjo" and "Le Bananiere"—were played as encore pieces during her soloist stint with the Asian Youth Orchestra under Sergiu Commisiona. Her concerts included a recital in Jacksonville last Oct. 20, a Saint-Saens concerto in Wisconsin on Nov. 1 and 4 and Beethoven No. 1 in Puerto Rico in December. She will be heard in Taiwan and Beijing in March and in Singapore in July next year.

The repertoire of the Peace Philharmonic in its Oct. 26 concert at the Cebu Plaza Grand Lobby includes Ramon Tapales' Philippine Suite, Schubert's Symphony No. 8 in B Minor, D. 759, "Unfinished," Milhaud's le Beouf Sur Le Toit, Copland's Billy the Kid and Telemann's Concerto for Viola in G Major with Gerry Barona as soloists. The Bacolod City Oct. 27 and 28 concerts will see the participation of the West Negros Glee Club, La Salle Chorale and the San Sebastian Cathedral Choir.

Believe it or not, Varona, the viola soloist in the Telemann concerto, only started music studies in 1998, won the top prize in the viola category of the National Music Competition for Young Artists last year, and now plays unaccompanied the Suite by Bach and Schubert's Arpeggione. I tell you, if more music missionaries like Ingrid Sala Santamaria continue to scour the countryside for untapped musicians, more will be discovered. We take note that Coke Bolipata is also doing the same music missionary work in San Antonio, Zambales as Billy Manalo has done the same in Metro Manila. If not for these people, our country will have no musicians in the next generation.

We forgot to mention in last week's copy that the Cebu recital and master classes of Japanese pianist Kenjie Watanabe were made possible through the Manila office of the Japan Foundation.

We took note of the recital of Raul Sunico at the National Museum last week but we didn't get any invitation (we only got a last-minute invitation to the presscon but we couldn't make it due to a previous commitment). We agree that a recital with paintings in the background is more conducive to music-listening. We proved that in two recitals of Licad at the Metropolitan Museum. Some concerts of Licad in New York took place at New York's Metropolitan Museum where her partnership with German cellist Alban Gerhardt eclipsed her performances with her ex-husband cellist.

Those who intend to enrol in the Institute of Arts Management of the CCP and NCCA should first get exposure in the performing and visual arts in any of the country's leading venues. That's a must. You can't manage artists' engagement without knowing their art form and what they require. Outreach coordinators who tour artists cannot even check the acoustics of a concert venue; they cannot even cue properly the giving of bouquets and leis to artists after a performance. I have seen concert managers ordering the giving of bouquets and leis in the first movement of sonatas and concertos to the shock of the performers.

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Despite arcane

(From page E4)

and breadth, the 36-year-old was beautiful to watch for her litheness and fluidity. The distortions of the body were graceful. The soft quality of the movements could be attributed to her yoga classes and training with Japanese choreographer Sabura Takishegawara and Susana Linke.

Marketing tool

Dance companies are now beginning to use their concerts as marketing venues for retailers. Instead of using advertising in print or TV, retailers would rather put their resources in a special event as it brings their brands closer to the target consumer.

Ballet Philippines' recent concert "Shoes++" tackled the Filipinos fetish for footwear. Since the theme is fashion-related, the company got the help of stores to sponsor the costumes and accessories. I doubt it if the audiences went to Fish or Anonymous to shop for T-shirts or pants after watching the works of Jinn Ibarrola and Tony Fabella. But the dancers kept their costumes for souvenir.

However, for the record, supporting an arts event lends prestige to the sponsors.

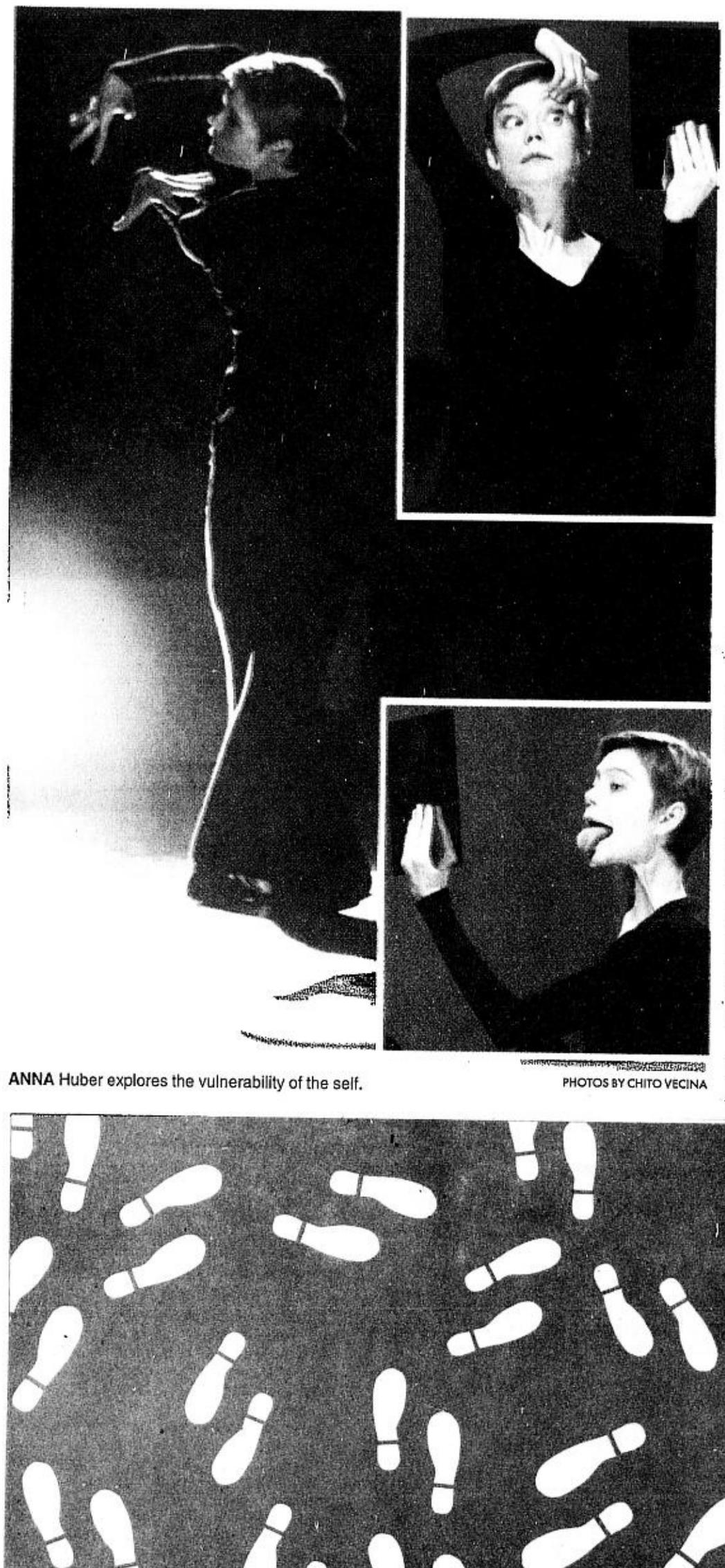
The stage of the Cultural Center of the Philippines was covered with 500 boxes of plastic, backlit storage boxes and shoes, courtesy of Anonymous. As a reference to Pinoy pop culture," the show was "emceed" by a a St. Scho-cum-Shoemart "saleslady" in drag. Although the leggy Herbie Go was hilarious as the saleslady, I found it jarring to see an SM shoelady in a store layout strongly identified with Anonymous. This is my bias really: I was expecting a gay clerk in all-black. (Only a fashion writer would notice this.) But with the full-page ad of SM malls in the program, it must have been a concession to the other sponsor.

Indeed the show was about fetishes—such as Ibarrola's obsession with bare midriffs in "Sneakers," Paul Morales' favorite topic of homo-eroticism in "Stiletto," Tony Fabella's trademark ethnic themes in "Padyak" and Alden Lugnasin's penchant for the absurd in "Flippers," which was a nifty way to promote Aquaventures to non-divers. Cecile Ibarrola marks her choreographic debut (with help from Brando Miranda) in ".2.(Pointe Shoes)," a feminine counterpoint to the rest of the hard-edged, high-octane dancing and androgynous numbers. Georgette Sanchez, who gets stronger and stronger, was the busiest dancer that night.

International pro-life congress at UP Film Center

THE EIGHTH Asia-Pacific Congress on Love, Life and Family will be hosted by Human Life International-Asia and the Episcopal Commission on Family Life of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines on Oct. 24-27 at the UP Film Center, Diliman, Quezon City. The congress will provide a forum for issues on family and life matters with talks to be given by international speakers. Call HLI-Asia at 434-9031 and 926-6177 (fax, 434-9033) or e-mail life@hliasia.graphixweb.net.

Despite arcane content, German ballet well applauded



ANNA Huber explores the vulnerability of the self.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

Last of two parts

SOLO performances are easier to book and are more economical. Yet, there's a charm that makes them interesting to watch.

To the performer, there's the challenge of holding the audience's attention for one hour or more. The individual transforms himself or herself through the work, which you don't see in an ensemble work. In the rehearsal hall, the artist undergoes an introspective experience—research on the self—to make a statement. Some performers describe the solo as an absorption into a psyche. Others require the audience to engage in a conceptual field. If dances are about relationships, then the solo performance is about the relationship between the artist and the audience.

The solo performance was brought to the fore when Ruth St. Denis and Isadora Duncan held the stage alone, debunking the hierarchical structure (principal dancers, demi-soloists and corps de ballet) of classical ballet. In postmodern dance, the solo confronts the issue of narcissism, the topic of a recent dance concert.

REVIEW

To see or not to see; that was the question that Swiss dancer-choreographer Anna Huber. Titled "Unsichtbarst (Most Invisible)," the choreography aimed at challenging the audience's perception of dance and the self.

The Goethe Institute built an aluminum dance area for the show. The metallic dance area was a statement in itself that complemented the modernity of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

Huber described her performance as a dialogue with the audience. For one hour, she let us into her world of experimentation. Her dance was accompanied by Wolfgang Blay's electronic music and silence. Any click of the camera or the ring of a mobile phone ruined the sacred atmosphere.

The choreography began with Huber, leaning forward perched over the aluminum surface as if looking at her reflection. Then she slipped into oversized slippers and walked toward the centerstage. Huber explained that the slippers served as a protection while standing on the fragile floor and to give the impression of dancing on ice water.

She picked up a mirror and started making animated facial expressions. It reminded the audience of what people do in the morning in front of the bathroom mirror. Then she dropped the mirror and skittered across the floor. Huber explored movement possibilities through isolated movements. She also spiraled like a corkscrew and twisted like a pretzel. She pulled the sleeves of her black T-shirt to create interesting shapes.

WORD FROM THE SPONSORS. In Jinn Ibarolla's "Sneakers," Annette Cruz and Christine Crame wear costumes from Anonymous and Fish, footwear from Sansha and the background is courtesy of Ricco Ocampo's stores.

Anna Huber challenges audience's perception of dance and the self in a riveting performance

"The body can transform. It's not only about shapes but doing different things. The limbs are going their own way," said Huber.

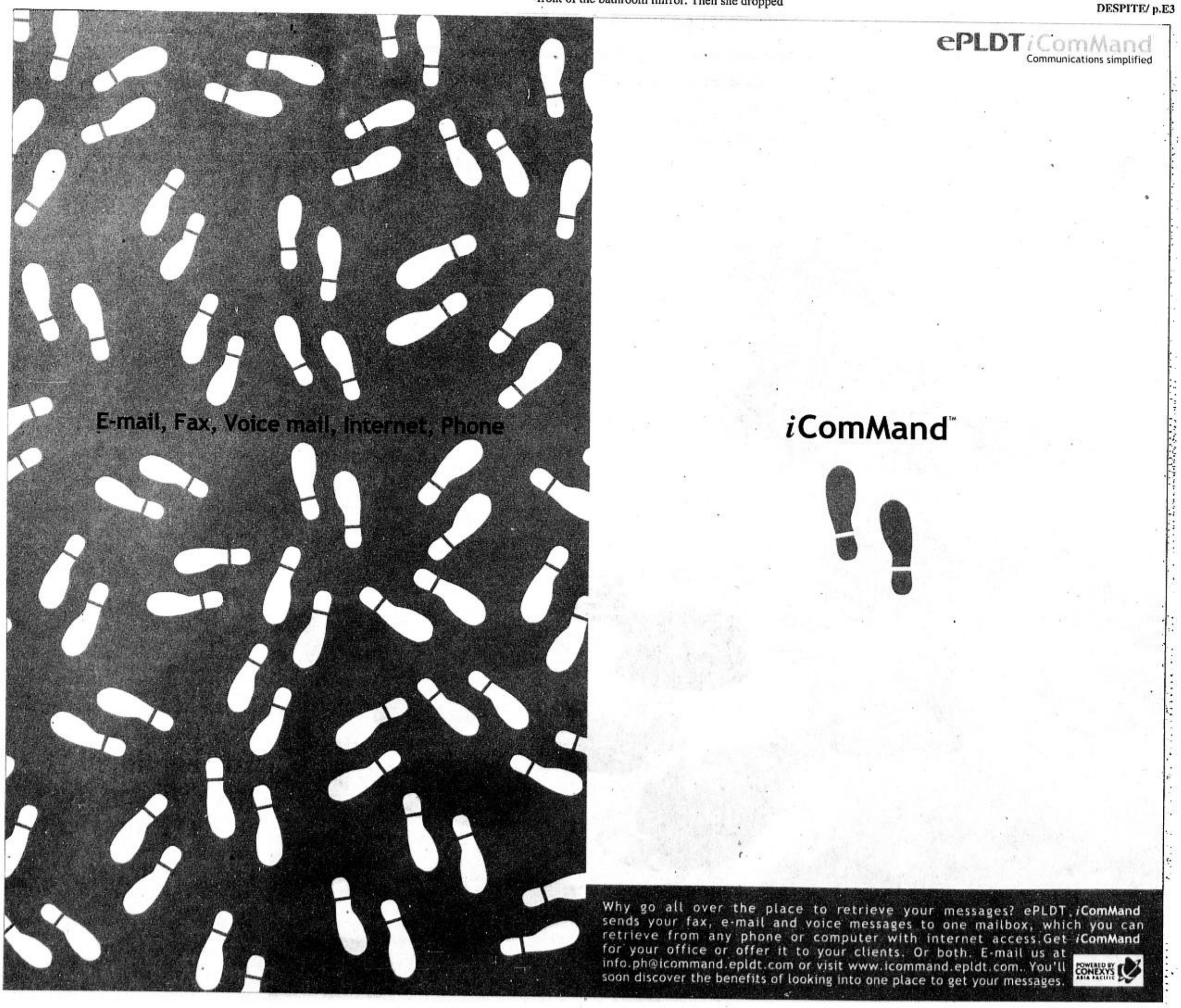
One of the most difficult things was squatting on the balls of her feet and rising up using her strong stomach muscles. To explore space, she jogged backward around the aluminum stage, split on the floor and raised her legs above the ground.

In postmodern dance, choreographers have been using voice and breathing as instruments aside from their bones and muscles. According to Huber, these are unseen instruments of the performer. Her heavy breathing, accompanied by expansive movements and release of sounds were part of the dance.

Later, she sat on the mat floor to be part of the audience and stared at the crowd, her head moving like a radar.

While other modern dancers capitalized on weight

DESPITE/ p.E3



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SYLVIA La Torre with giant paper mache heads and bodies of Kenkoy, Rosing and other Pinoy pop culture icons.

Book to set 'Bench'-mark on Pinoy pop culture

FILIPINO popular culture gets a stylish treatment in "Pinoy Pop Culture," a collaboration between fashion retail leader Bench, literary maven Gilda Cordero-Fernando, and book designer Manuel Chavez. The book will be launched with a theatrical extravaganza on Oct. 27 at the NBC Tent.

Published by Ben Chan, chairman and creative director of Suyen Corporation, which is behind the Bench logo, the book covers everything from such icons as Kenkoy, Sylvia La Torre, Ma Mon Luk and Nora Aunor, to sweet spaghetti, jeepney, the smorgasbord style of Filipino interiors, "dirty" ice cream, day-old chick and "samalamig." There's even a dictionary of Pinoy slang from the '70s to the present, and, of course, a "bakla-bulary" (gayspeak dictionary).

How can a 71-year old woman come up with a book on an of-the-moment subject? "I work with young people who help me with their insights, like my co-author Manni Chaves," says Fernando. The woman has an unquenchable thirst to experience anything new. She went recently to a rock concert where there were rumbles in the mash pit and a band called Slapshock played deafeningly. "I only read about slamdancing, I wanted to experience it so I said we had to be there," she said.

Chavez says "Pinoy Pop Culture" is not the definitive book on the subject. "We wanted to go the opposite direction of more academic undertakings in the study of pop. This is not the definitive Pinoy pop book, just a fun one. It invites the reader to join in the experience of fun and togetherness." Hence, the book is written in English, in Taglish, in "bading" language, in "carabao" English, "whichever is convenient."

BOOK/ p.F4

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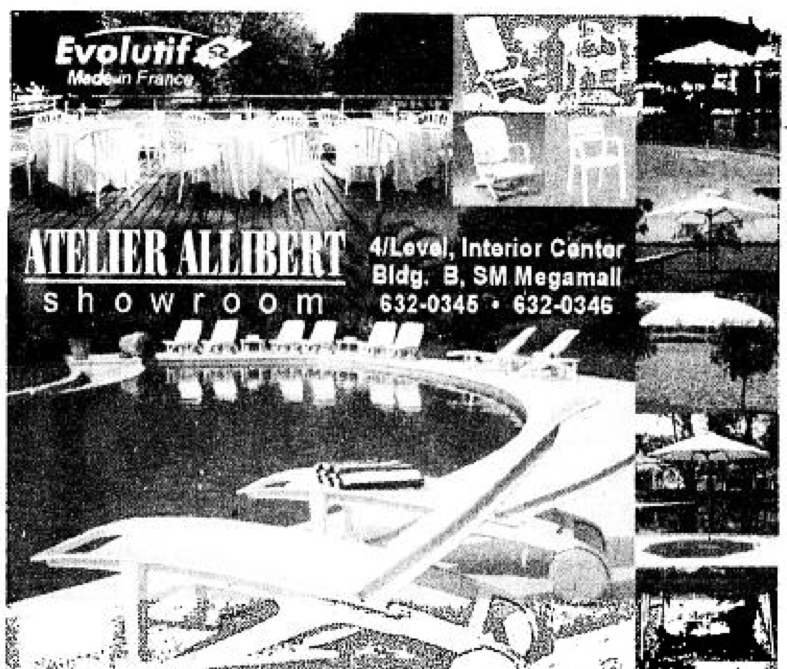

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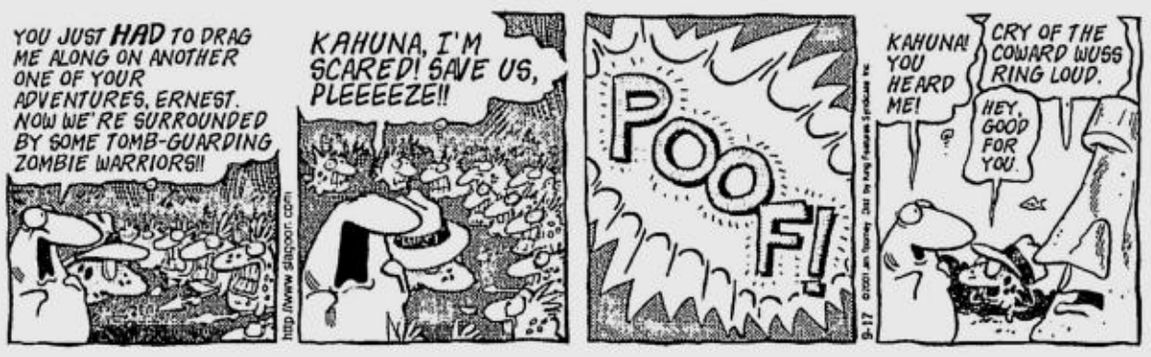

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Happy Birthday: You'll want to be where the action is, but think beforehand. If you refrain from taking on too many responsibilities, this can be a good year. Concentrate on the most important issues. You can make a big difference to others by being open and honest about your concerns. Your numbers: 8; 12, 27, 29, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have an unrealistic view of your position. Deception will occur regarding personal relationships. Don't make changes at home. You won't be happy with your choices.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's a good time to interact with groups or organizations, especially those that are geared toward all ages. You will gain knowledge and be able to help children.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Uncertainties regarding your financial situation will put a damper on your day. Make calls to sort out the problems. If someone owes you money, ask for it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Talk to your partner to avoid the relationship melodramas. Face up to the problems, and take part of the blame if you're at fault.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes will be beneficial. Send out your resumé or go after that newly created position in another department. Don't let others hold you back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do some early shopping before the stores start getting busy. Children will need some special attention. Be aware of your family's needs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll find it hard to balance your emotions today. Stand up for your rights, and don't let a loved one burden you with his or her responsibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expend your energy on raising your earning capacity. Travel is necessary if you wish to accomplish anything. Ask those in a higher position for help if you need it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't expect anything and you won't be disappointed. Talk is cheap, and someone's been giving you a song and dance. Be sure to get promises in writing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your lack of interest in your partner is a problem. Spend some time alone to decide exactly how you feel. Your emotions are up and down, causing confusion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful of one-sided love interests. You could hurt your professional reputation if you aren't careful. Don't read too much into the kindness someone extends to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to expand your horizons and circle of friends to spark new ideas and enthusiasm.

Birthday Baby: You are a leader, not a follower, determined to do what you want. Inventive, innovative and intelligent, you have a creative imagination and will strive to come up with new ways to do things.

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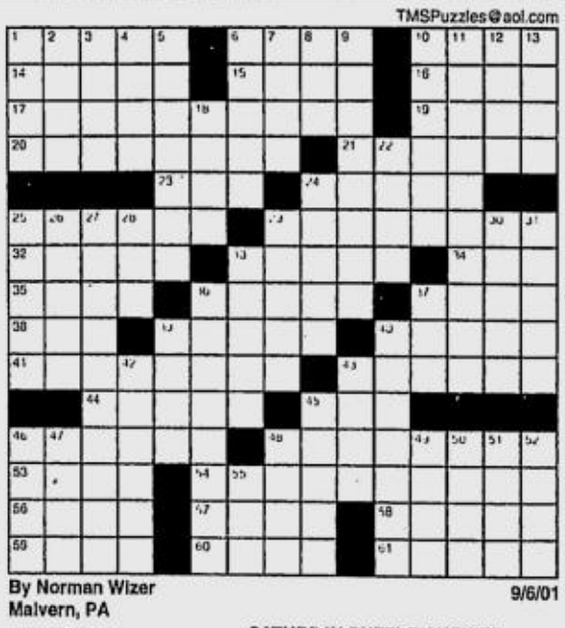

By Norman Wizer
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9/6/01

ACROSS
1 Gets a return
6 Hr. with a shrink
10 Fraud
14 Cliff dwelling
15 Telephone on stage, e.g.
16 __ into one's own
17 Oxymoronic appearance
19 Wellness grps.
20 Speakers before drinks
21 Frat boys
23 Du Maurier's "Jamaica __"
24 Besieged site of 1836
25 Beauty parlors
29 At fault
32 Plucked sound
33 Surface luster
34 Pharmaceutical watchdog grp.
35 Auricles
36 Lowly workers
37 Kettle covers
38 Heart-chart letters
39 Uplift
40 Shoestrings
41 Goes back in
43 Orator Tully
44 Half-pints
45 Floor-cleaning implement
46 Gung-ho
48 Opera text
53 Noteworthy times
54 Oxymoronic knowledge
56 Mound
57 Campus military grp.
58 __ we all?
59 Clumsy lummoxes
60 Altar area
61 Because of

DOWN
1 Spellbound
2 Younger Saarinen
3 Precinct
4 Low places
5 Scene
6 Brush off
7 Work units
8 Fa-la link
9 Small telescope
10 Conspire
11 Oxymoronic workplace
12 Berserk
13 Disorderly state
18 Urges
22 Battering devices
24 Stag
25 Handle the helm
26 Not asleep
27 Oxymoronic portion
28 Start-up buttons
29 Discoloring stains
30 Cow feature
31 Rodeo rope
33 First, reverse, etc.
36 Abundance
37 Varnish ingredient
39 European volcano
40 Hear visually?
42 Hospital workers
43 Male swans
45 Chop into bits
46 Collection biz
47 Diva's song
48 __ not and say we did
49 Light brown
50 Family or shoe follower
51 Collapsible shelter
52 Eight: It.
55 Dad

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Roco to open UST national campus press fellowship

THE THIRD annual University of Santo Tomas (UST) National Campus Journalism Fellowship will open tomorrow morning at the Albertus Magnus (Education Building) Auditorium of UST with Education Secretary Raul Roco as keynote speaker.

The three-day fellowship, organized by The Varsitarian, the 73-year-old student organ of UST, has become the biggest gathering of campus journalists in the country. It consists of writing seminars and workshops on news, features, sports and lifestyle and culture. There are also sessions on investigative reporting, journalism in Filipino, literary criticism and campus paper management.

Speakers include Lourdes Molina Fernandez of Today, Peachy Yamsuan of Family Life Magazine, Joaquin Henson of Philippine Star, Nestor Cuartero of Tempo, Chay Hofilena of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, and Rina Jimenez David and Lito Zulueta of the INQUIRER.

Other speakers are National Artist F. Sionil Jose, Ramon Magsaysay laureate Bienvenido Lumbera, and former National Commission on Culture and the Arts executive director Virgilio Almario.

The highlight of the fellowship is the awarding of the first-ever National Campus Investigative Journalism Award, established by Julio S. Macaranas Jr., a UST Faculty of Civil Law graduate and former editor in chief of The Varsitarian and a major publication on labor law in Washington D.C.

As of press time, more than 200 campus journalists have registered. The schools represented include Silliman University, Isabela State University, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippine Women's University, UP-Visayas, UP-Los Baños, De la Salle University, Adamson, Philippine Normal University, Letran-Calamba, Mariano Marcos State University of Ilocos Norte, Philippine Science High School-Cagayan Valley, Miriam, St. Paul College-Manila, Angelicum College, Nueva Vizcaya State Polytechnic College, Bicol University, Divine Word Academy-Dagupan, Xavier School, Siena College-Quezon City and Taytay, St. Mary's Academy-Bulacan, West Visayas State University, San Pedro College of Business Administration, University of San Agustin of Iloilo, Dumaguete State College, AMA College-Caloocan City, Holy Angels University of Pampanga, Holy Spirit Academy of Malolos, Philippine State College of Aeronautics, University of Regina Carmel of Bulacan, St Mary's College-Quezon City, Pasig Christian Academy, Immaculate Conception Parish School and St. James Academy of Bulacan.

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Registration fee is P600, which covers workshop kit, supplementary materials and snacks. The Varsitarian will host a dinner for all the participants on the first and last days.

Call the Varsitarian at 731-3101, local 8235, or Reyann Kong (0919-2825095) or Stephen Roy Chua-Rojas (0917-5205018). Register online at http://www.varsitarian.com.

New Ateneo books

"IMAGE to Meaning," a collection of critical essays on the visual arts by Alice G. Guillermo, shows how the practice of art criticism intersects with art history and theory. The essays span more than two decades of writing on the arts from 1979-2001, coinciding with an active and exciting period in the development of art in the country.

The book aims to appeal to all lovers of art as it combines intellectual analysis with a sense of enjoyment and emotional satisfaction. Art criticism, after all, involves not looking at art from the outside but closely engaging it from within.

"People of Power" by John P. McAndrew situates first-person accounts of spirit encounters from Davao and Davao Oriental provinces within the context of a worldview of indigenous religion and healing. This book examines five central themes: healing as efficacious power, remembering one's debt of gratitude, acquiring personal power, competing with the power of others and the localization of religious beliefs. It also explores the affinity of localized religion to the emerging ecological worldview of the universe.

These books are now available at National Bookstore branches, PowerBooks, Solidaridad and Popular (at its new outlet on T. Morato, QC). And also at the Ateneo Press office (426-5984/6001, local 4612/16).

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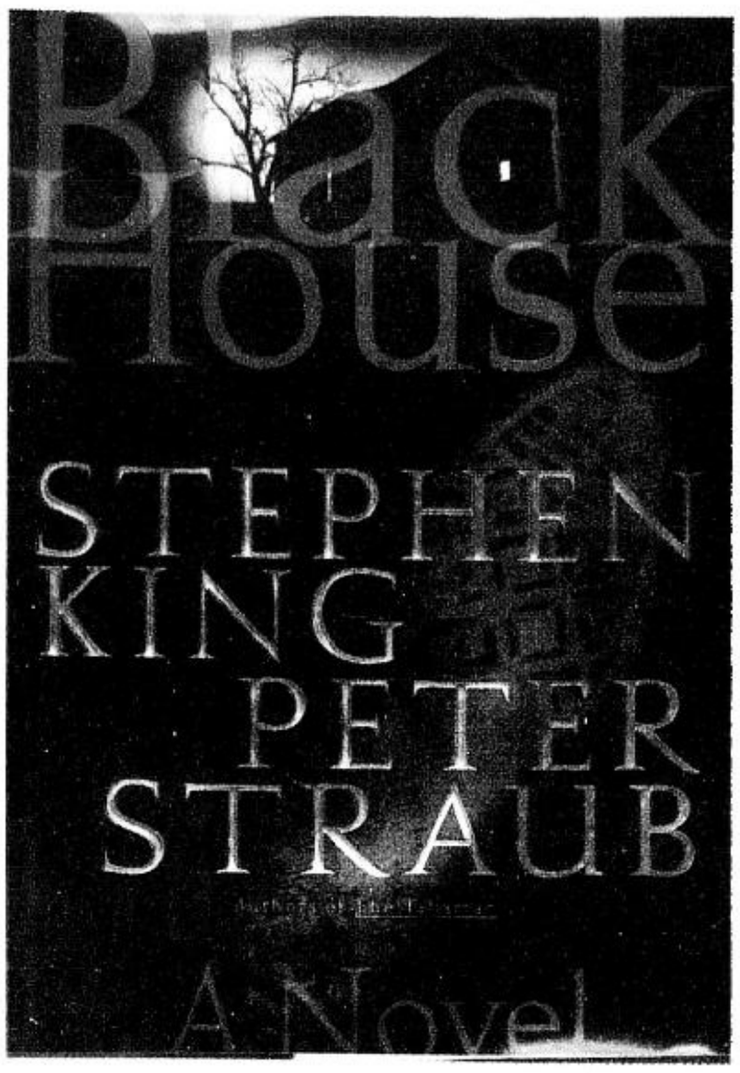


Two experts on fictional terror combine forces for 'Black House,' a complicated but satisfying romp

Masters of the 'House'

Black House
by Stephen King and Peter Straub
Random House, New York,
2001, 625 pages

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

JUST like in music, the idea of two big names combining their talents for a duet of sorts in literature is a risky, all-or-nothing proposition: either it's an instant classic or a train wreck. The bigger the names, the higher the risk. But Stephen King and Peter Straub have joined forces before to greatly terrifying effect in "The Talisman," a tale of parallel worlds, noble men and truly depraved serial killers. Now the pair reunite to tackle the same terrain, even resurrecting the same protagonist, but to new vigor in the satisfying "Black House."

REVIEW

Set alternately in the despairing town of Tamarack, Wisconsin and the wild, weary plane of magic that is the Territories, "Black House" returns readers to the company of Jack Sawyer. Also known as "Travelling Jack," Sawyer was the young boy who had touched the magical talisman and could now see on both planes. Now a retired LAPD detective, Sawyer has settled in Wisconsin, but a truly terrifying evil has crossed over from the Territories and has begun abducting and eating unsuspecting children. An evil known only as the Fisherman.

Fighting his own memories and fear of the Territories, Sawyer must gather together new unlikely allies and suffer his own tragedies to find the deranged killer in Tamarack—and in the territories. In so doing, he will find himself in the middle of a new conflict. And all this relies on his saving one boy from the Fisherman.

"Black House" is a great platform for King's wiseacre, down-home style as well as Straub's broader epic tone. Both (King's "It", Straub's "Ghost Story") are capable of creating literary nightmare more potent than any before. "Black House," which drips with references to "The Talisman" and King's "Dark Tower" trilogy, contains just that. The detailed descriptions of corpses and the Fisherman's methods will haunt readers long after they've hidden the book deep in their libraries. These scenes of abject terror are both proof of the two writers' great talent as well as their ability to blindside even the most jaded horror fan. Do not forget: the episodes of personal carnage in "Black House" are not for the squeamish.

Charming

Despite the violence, "Black House" is fascinating, even charming, reading. Tamarack has a well-documented history that springs alive from the page. And the cast of characters, from the vitriolic tabloid reporter Wendell Green to the ultra-cool blind man Henry Leyden, is simply amazing.

The plot itself is somewhat complicated, due to the tie-ins to the earlier books. But if readers remain patient and faithful that King and Straub will not let them wander blindly in the "Black House's" corridors. They will be gifted with a somewhat overly long but thoroughly satisfying tale of epic magic and small town horror. The Territories don't vibrate with quite the same amount of electricity that Tamarack does, but that's a minor concern considering the amount of time spent in the riveting Wisconsin locale.

In their own way, King and Straub are reinventing the horror novel with their self-aware tricks in "Black House." The point of view alone (from the back of a demonic crow named Gorg) is worth the read, but wait until you get to the surprising ending the two horror masters have prepared. All the reader will be able to say is, "These guys are really good."

All told, "Black House" sets up what appears another map of the uncertain geography of the Territories. For now, there's really no need. King and Straub have injected just enough of themselves, and created something of a new, integrated entity that just loves both the most powerful terror and the most charming eccentricity, in the many twisting hallways and hidden rooms of the "Black House." But all visitors must consider themselves lucky—and warned.

Available in hardcover from National Bookstore and Powerbooks.

Book to set 'Bench'-mark on Pinoy pop culture

(From page F1)

And how does Chan fit into the picture? "I'd like to give something back," the retail magnate says, "especially to the young people who have made my business thrive. But I also want to know more about myself, to discover what makes us unique and different from the rest. And maybe when we understand ourselves, we could be proud just being Pinoy."

"I have always dreamed that big business and high culture would someday come together," Fernando says. "And not just in sporadic sponsorships of cultural events. Because they have so much to learn from each other. Each has what the other needs. Culture can give the marketing some substance, art and meaning. Business can provide capital and merchandising guidance to steer the art form closer to what's popular and mainstream."

Expected to perform during the launching are Sylvia La Torre, Nora Aunor, Yoyoy Villame, Anna Fegi, Radioactive Sago Project, Dama, Valentina, Aegis and Rivermaya. Celebrities of fashion, business, cuisine, literature, and music will be there. It's a party to watch out for and a book that one must have. But as an essay in the book warns, "Mahirap magbuhat ng sariling Bench."

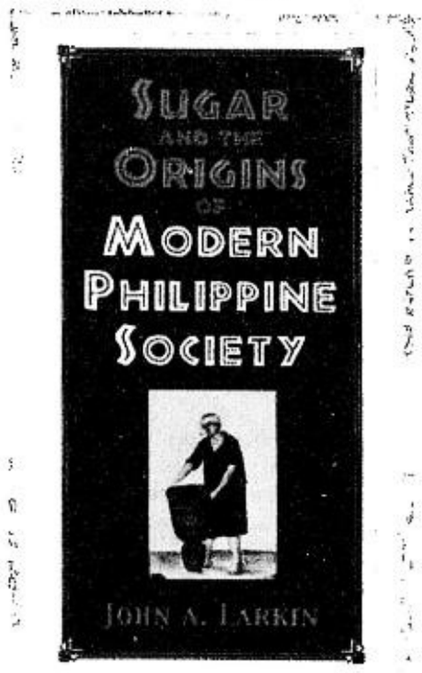
GILDA Cordero-Fernando and Manuel Chaves with giant puppet Kenkoy

History book on sugar industry

NEW Day Publishers releases "Sugar and the Origins of Modern Philippine Society" by California-based author John A. Larkin. The 352-page book discusses vividly the relationship between the development of the sugar industry, one of the pioneer enterprises in the archipelago, and the evolution of the country's socio-economic order.

The sugar industry has been a vital part of the economic and social life of modem Philippine society. Under the Spanish and American colonial rules, sugar cultivation and export became one of the chief commercial industries with both the people and the colonizers taking part in the industry, but with only a few profiting enormously. Larkin examines how the international sugar market and local culture forged two types of society—one based on plantation agriculture and the other on tenant farming.

Larkin investigates the history of two of the most important sugar-producing provinces—Negros Occidental and Pampanga—and depicts the impact of colonial economic forces on the rise of elite plantation-owning class, the subsequent gap that developed between the extraordinarily wealthy and the impoverished, and the nation's dependence on the international market. The author concludes that the industry resulted in stunted economic progress, wide social cleavages, and an imbalance of political power—whose effects are still felt today.



Larkin was recently given special recognition as an Outstanding Scholar in the Kapampangan Studies at the First International Conference on Kapampangan Studies held at the Holy Angel University in Angeles City because of his writings on Pampango history.

This work will be a very useful material to businessmen and entrepreneurs in understanding the industry vital to the evolution of Philippine society. It is also an indispensable contribution to historians and social analysts in appreciating the dynamics of Southeast Asian history and geopolitics. The book is now available at leading bookstores nationwide. Call New Day Publishers at 928-8046 or 927-5982.

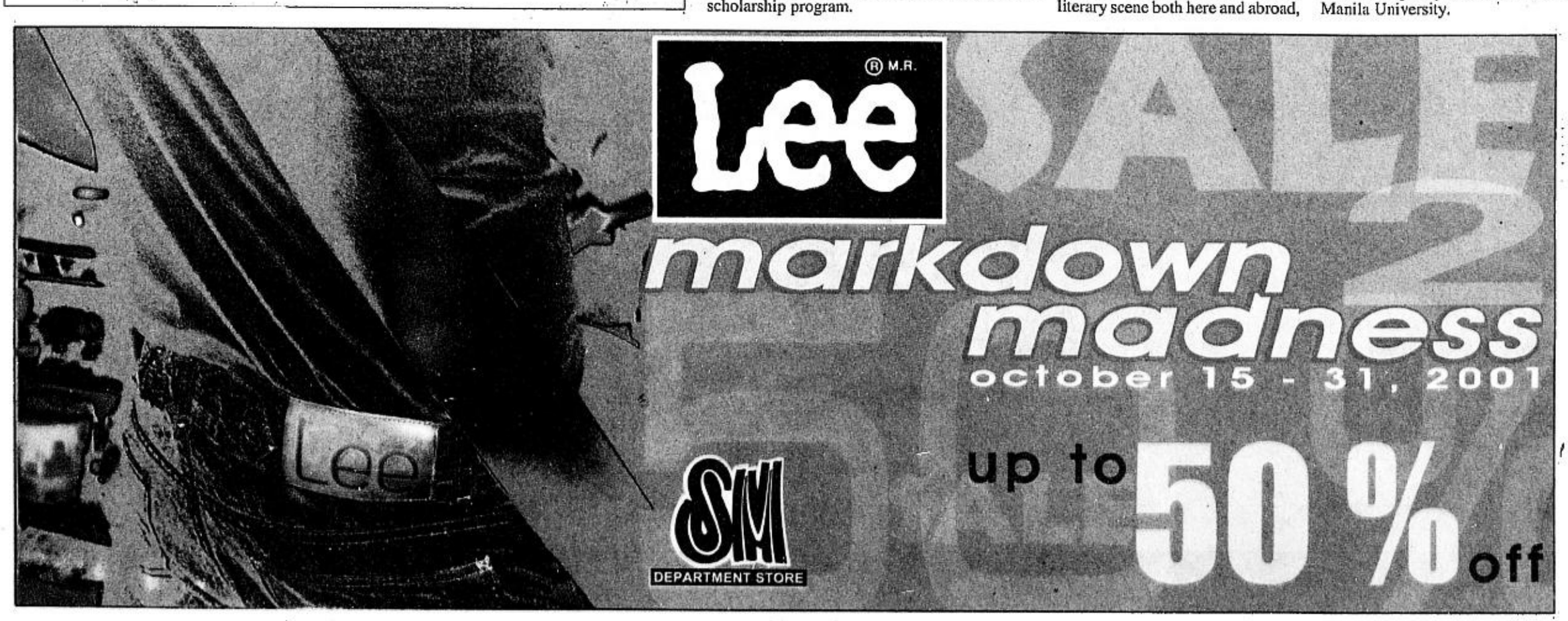
Hans Menzi biography

"FROM Earth to Sky: The Life and Times of Hans Menzi" will be launched on Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club. Published by the Menzi Trust Fund, Inc. and Menzi & Company, Inc., the book charts the life of the late Hans Menzi, publisher of the Bulletin Today and one of the most influential men of his era. Proceeds of the book sale will go to a scholarship program.

Yuson's book of essays to be launched

ANVIL Publishing, Inc. and National Bookstore will launch a book by award-winning writer Alfred A. Yuson entitled "The Word on Paradise: Essays 1991-2000, On Writers and Writing" on Oct. 25, 6:00 p.m., at the National Bookstore-Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City.

The book contains 75 telling essays, described by the author as "gossip, trivia, confessions, laudations and some peeve-clearing related to the craft of writing."

Yuson, in this book, often writes with playfulness and informality, sometimes with poignancy and sensitivity, but always with elegance and ease. He is a master observer and skillful storyteller who is capable of bringing his readers along (vicariously) in his many jaunts and adventures and through a myriad of moods and feelings. Already a name himself in the literary scene both here and abroad, he still writes with benevolence and fitting reverence when discussing literary giants (and his idols) like Jose Garcia Villa, Nick Joaquin, Edith K. Tiempo and N.V.M. Gonzalez, and waxes whimsical when talking about his beloved Dumaguete. "The Word on Paradise," Yuson says, is for "everyone who (can) only wish the best for Philippine Literature."

Alfred A. Yuson, poet, novelist, and children's book writer, has gained various literary distinctions, including the SEAWrite (SouthEast Asian Writers) Award. He is vice chair of UMPIL (Writers Union of the Philippines) and is a founding member of the Philippine Literary Arts Council; the Creative Writing Foundation, Inc.; and the Manila Critics Circle. He writes a weekly column on literature and culture in a national newspaper and teaches fiction and poetry at the Ateneo de Manila University.